

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. PHILIP R. LEE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Dr. Philip R. Lee, who has been a dynamic leader in health policy for more than 40 years. He has served during challenging times and has shown leadership as a physician, advocate, teacher, researcher, and policymaker.

This September, the health policy program that Dr. Lee founded 35 years ago at the University of California, San Francisco, will be renamed the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies in recognition of his significant contributions at the international, national, State, and local levels.

Dr. Lee contributed to global health as Director of Health Services at the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID, by advising health policymakers in many countries. At USAID he drafted the first U.S. policies for international family planning services and helped to strengthen the Agency's health and nutrition initiative.

Dr. Lee contributed to the health of our Nation serving as Assistant Secretary for Health and Human Services during the Johnson and Clinton administrations. He was involved in the passage of many landmark bills in 1965, including Medicare and Medicaid; Health Professions Education Assistance Amendments; Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke Amendments; the War on Poverty; Job Corps; Food Stamps; and Head Start. Especially significant was Dr. Lee's work to establish the National Center for Health Services Research, now the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, to fund graduate medical education under Medicare, and his efforts to desegregate 1,000 of the Nation's 7,000 hospitals in compliance with the Civil Rights Act.

Dr. Lee has contributed to the health of Californians, especially during his tenure as the third chancellor of UCSF, where he was known for his commitment to academic excellence and affirmative action. Dr. Lee continues to help policymakers and others understand that California is a rapidly growing and increasingly diverse State, and that both its educational and health care institutions must meet the needs of a diverse population.

Dr. Lee has also worked to improve the health of people in my district of San Francisco, particularly during his term, 1985–1989, as president of the newly established Health Commission of the City and County of San Francisco.

Dr. Lee is a rare role model in his exceptional accomplishments, as well as in his enthusiasm, tenacity, integrity, imagination, and compassion. His unwavering commitment to the needs of the disadvantaged, including the elderly, the disabled, and those without access to care has inspired a new generation of lead-

ers in key positions as researchers and teachers in academia, and as leaders of professional associations, public health agencies, foundations, and in the private sector. We in California owe him a debt of gratitude for his service to the State and to the Nation.

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA SIEWERT

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Amanda Siewert who has been awarded the Curtis Garrett Scholarship of Jefferson County Colorado in the amount of \$1,000.00. Amanda will use this scholarship to help in the expense of her education at Metropolitan State College of Denver in Denver, Colorado. She will be majoring in education.

Amanda is a 2007 graduate of Pomona High School of Arvada, Colorado. Amanda graduated eighth in her class out of 410 seniors with a 3.8 overall grade point average.

In addition to her exemplary dedication to her academics, Amanda also worked full-time during her senior year, working with special needs children. Her particular hard work and dedication were apparent while working with an autistic child, whom she tutors on a regular basis. When the schools had exercised all learning options for the student, Amanda stepped in, and as a result of her tutoring, the child has made remarkable progress.

The dedication demonstrated by Amanda Siewert is an excellent example of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive for their personal bests in their education to develop a sense of responsibility and pride in their work that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Amanda Siewert for winning the Curtis Garrett Scholarship. I have no doubt Amanda will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her academic career at Metropolitan State College and future career in education.

RECOGNIZING CENTROMED

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Health Center week I wish to recognize CentroMed. CentroMed provides important medical services to residents of San Antonio and other parts of Bexar County. CentroMed, along with other community health centers in Texas, provides much needed healthcare to uninsured and medically under-

served populations. Health centers like this one expand access to quality care for all people and contain healthcare costs by promoting preventative healthcare and primary care services. Health centers are essential to our Nation's healthcare system, providing high standards of care, reducing unmet needs in underserved communities and encouraging preventative care through outreach activities. Health centers guarantee access for all individuals, helping to eliminate health disparities and achieve healthcare for all. Again, I recognize CentroMed for its important contributions to healthcare and for improving the health and quality of life of the people of the 23d Congressional District of Texas.

THANKING MR. WILLIAM "DAVID" CRUDUP III FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in July, 2007, I rise to thank William "David" Crudup III for his 36 years of outstanding service to the U. S. House of Representatives.

David began working for the House in 1971 in the Longworth Bake Shop where he served many of our Nation's leaders and foreign visitors. One of his most memorable events was when he had the opportunity to bake a birthday cake for then-First Lady Betty Ford. Upon leaving the Longworth Bake Shop, David worked the next 20 years for the Clerk of the House in the Office Furnishings division. He served as a Logistics and Distribution Specialist performing a wide range of duties including furniture delivery to Congressional offices, warehouse inventory management and assisting with the proper disposal of excess furniture.

In September 1991, David took a position with Office Systems Management, also under the Clerk. He was responsible for a wide range of duties including the delivery and removal of office equipment from Congressional offices, as well as performing and reconciling equipment inventories and assisting with the proper disposal of excess equipment.

Throughout his career, David has been admired by House staff and his co-workers for his enthusiasm, professionalism and willingness to help others. He frequently went above and beyond the call of duty. His dedication and hard work should be commended. On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to David for his years of outstanding service and contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ALASKA
NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT
ACT TO PROVIDE EQUITABLE
TREATMENT OF ALASKA NATIVE
VIETNAM VETERANS

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce legislation today to correct an inequity for my Alaska Native Vietnam Veterans with regard to their native allotment issues.

Approximately 2,800 Alaska Natives served in the military during the Vietnam conflict and therefore did not have an opportunity to apply for their Native allotment. In 1998, P.L. 105-276 amended the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to provide Alaska Native Vietnam veterans an opportunity to obtain an allotment of up to 160 acres of land under the Native Allotment Act.

P.L. 105-276 contains three major obstacles that prevent Alaska Native Vietnam veterans from selecting and obtaining their Native allotment. First, Alaska Native Vietnam veterans can only apply for land that was vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved when their use first began. Second, Alaska Native Vietnam veterans can only apply if they served in active military duty from January 1, 1969 to December 31, 1971 (even though the Vietnam conflict began August 5, 1964 and ended May 7, 1975). Third, Alaska Native Vietnam veterans must prove they used the land (applied for in their native allotment application) in a substantially continuous and independent manner, at least potentially exclusive of others, for five or more years. This requirement was not in the original Native Allotment Act, nor has it been required of other Alaska Native applicants in applying for their native allotment. Further, adjudication of use and occupancy issues will take years and will be very costly.

My bill will increase the available land by authorizing Alaska Native Vietnam veterans to apply for land that is federally owned and vacant. The lack of available land under existing law nullifies the very purpose of granting Alaska Native Vietnam veterans an allotment benefit. This is true because most land in Alaska is not available for Alaska Native Vietnam veteran allotment applications under existing laws. For example, there is no land available in southeast Alaska because it either is within the Tongass National Forest or has been selected or conveyed to the State of Alaska or ANCSA Native Corporations.

My bill will also expand the military service dates to coincide with the entire Vietnam conflict: August 5, 1964 through May 7, 1975. The expansion of military service dates to include all Alaska Natives who served in the military during the Vietnam conflict is consistent with the federal government's policy of providing benefits to veterans of the Vietnam War. The federal government has given public land benefits to veterans (or their widows or heirs) of every war beginning with the Indian Wars of 1790 and ending with the Korean conflict in 1955. Incidentally, Alaska Native veterans were not eligible for these public land benefits until 1924 because the courts had determined Alaska Natives were not United States citizens.

My bill would extend the deadline of the allotment application to three years after the Secretary of the Interior issues final regulations under Section 3 of this bill. It also would correct the dates of Approval of Allotments to accommodate the extension of the application process of an Alaska Native Vietnam veteran.

My bill would also assure ANCSA Regional and Village Corporations that if an Alaska Native Vietnam veteran makes his or her allotment selection within lands selected (and not necessarily conveyed) by those Corporations said Corporation's lands entitlement will remain intact.

My bill would prohibit an Alaska Native Vietnam veteran from selecting lands within the right of way granted for the TransAlaska Pipeline or the inner and outer corridor of that right-of-way withdrawal (for security reasons after 9/11 attacks). It also would prohibit a veteran from selecting lands containing a building, permanent structure, or other development owned or controlled by the United States, another unit of government, or reserved for national defense purposes other than National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

My bill would also allow a veteran who made an allotment selection under Section 2(g) of this bill, before the date of the enactment of this bill, may withdraw that selection and reselect lands under this section if the land originally selected were not conveyed to that person prior to enactment of this bill.

My bill will also replace existing use and occupancy requirements with legislative approval of allotment applications. Use and occupancy requirements would be replaced for several reasons: (1) Congress has made legislative approval available to all other allotment applicants under 43 U.S.C. Section 1634(a) (1) (A); (2) legislative approval of allotments prevents costly and lengthy adjudication of use and occupancy issues; and (3) many Alaska Native Vietnam veterans could not meet use and occupancy requirements as a result of military service. For example, the application of a deserving Alaska Native Vietnam veteran who was paralyzed during the Vietnam conflict would be rejected if that veteran were unable to complete the five years of use of the claimed land and had not used the land for five years before the war.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation for Alaska Native Vietnam veterans who served their country in a time of conflict. I want to remind my colleagues that we owe our veterans the respect, dignity and honor them so well deserve for fulfilling their duty and commitment to this great nation. Please do not deprive my Alaska Native Vietnam veterans their rightful opportunity to apply for their native allotment as was afforded other Alaska natives in my great State.

TRIBUTE TO EMILY ALLEN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emily Allen who has been awarded the Curtis Garrett Scholarship of Jefferson County, Colorado, in the amount of \$1,000. Emily will use this scholarship to attend McPherson College in McPherson, Kansas, majoring in education.

Emily is a 2007 graduate of Alameda High School of Lakewood, Colorado and has had a very accomplished academic career. She graduated seventh in her class with an overall grade point average of 3.8. Emily was very involved in her high school career and that involvement only adds to the recognition this young woman deserves.

Emily was very involved with the cheerleading squad at Alameda High School, and will continue that involvement at McPherson College. Deciding on an education degree, she will be following in the footsteps of her parents, both of whom are Jefferson County teachers.

The dedication demonstrated by Emily Allen is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive for their best in their education to develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Emily Allen for winning the Curtis Garrett scholarship. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her high school career to her athletic and academic careers at McPherson College.

RECOGNIZING UNITED MEDICAL
CENTERS

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Health Center Week I wish to recognize United Medical Centers. United Medical Centers serve Kinney, Maverick and Val Verde Counties, three rural communities where access to healthcare is often limited. United Medical Centers, along with other community health centers in Texas, provide much needed healthcare to uninsured and medically underserved populations. In rural communities, community health centers are often the only medical facility within miles, and the health professionals there serve as the family doctors for everyone in the community. Health centers like this one expand access to quality care for all people and contain healthcare costs by promoting preventative healthcare and primary care services. Health centers are essential to our nation's healthcare system, providing high standards of care, reducing unmet needs in underserved communities and encouraging preventative care through outreach activities. Health centers guarantee access for all individuals, helping to eliminate health disparities and achieve healthcare for all. Again, I recognize United Medical Centers for its important contributions to healthcare and for improving the health and quality of life of the people of the 23d Congressional District of Texas.

THANKING MR. PHIL NICHOLS FOR
HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement in

May, I rise today to thank Mr. Phil Nichols for his long career of outstanding service to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Phil Nichols has been an employee of the House for 31 years. During that time, he has earned the respect and admiration of his fellow co-workers. Phil is a person of great character and will leave behind a legacy of professionalism, hard work and dedication to the institution. His accomplishments while serving the House were many. One of his most notable contributions was as a member of the team responsible for reupholstering the two chairs on the dais in the House Chamber which are used by the Vice President of the United States and the Speaker of the House during every State of the Union speech.

Phil's retirement is bittersweet. The House will lose an individual who from day one of his employment made a long term commitment to excellence. His performance has always been exceptional and beyond expectations. His legacy will live on in the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish Phil many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

THE NATIVE AMERICAN CHALLENGE DEMONSTRATION PROJECT ACT

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Madam Speaker, I am happy to introduce today the Native American Challenge Demonstration Project Act of 2007. This legislation acknowledges the special historical and legal relationship of the United States to Native American people and builds on the lessons we as a Nation have learned in the international arena and our often-failed efforts to bring jobs, income and hope to Native people here at home.

Anyone who has visited Alaska Native communities or Indian reservations in the continental U.S. knows that Native people continue to lag behind their countrymen despite a rich cultural legacy and in some instances abundant natural resources on and under their lands. Native economies face a number of hurdles including geographic remoteness, distance from markets and population centers, and lack of or poor physical infrastructure. After decades of failed Federal efforts to revitalize Native economies, I believe the time is right to use what we know is working to reduce poverty, increase incomes, and encourage transparent governments in the developing world. Initiated in 2003, the Millennium Challenge Act has put forth ration has developed a model for reducing poverty and promoting sustainable economic growth.

The bill I am introducing today would use these same principles to enhance the long-term job creation and revenue generation potential of Native economies by creating investment-favorable climates and increasing Native productivity. It would also administer Federal economic development assistance in a new way to promote economic growth, eliminate poverty, and strengthen good governance, entrepreneurship, and investment in Native communities.

The Native American Challenge rests on four key principles that are as relevant to Na-

tive communities as they are to the developing world: (1) reducing poverty through vigorous private sector economic growth is a proven method of success; (2) rewarding constructive policies that are initiated and followed by the host government is a legitimate tool of United States policy; (3) operating as true partners with eligible entities increases the chances of success by maximizing communication and identifying and pursuing whatever mid-course corrections might be needed in tailoring an eligible entity's development plan; and (4) focusing on clearly-articulated criteria and concrete results by funneling Corporation attention and resources on those countries that have clear objectives, are willing and able to measure progress, and can therefore ensure accountability in their development plan.

A critical component of the Native American Challenge is in its demand for accountability in the performance of the Compact terms and use of financial resources and this legislation would require that not later than March 15, 2008, and annually thereafter, the eligible entities shall prepare and submit to the Secretary written reports regarding the assistance provided under this Act during the previous fiscal year. These reports, with any additional information the Secretary deems relevant, will then be transmitted to Congress by May 15 of each year.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

TRIBUTE TO MELISSA FLEMING

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Melissa Fleming who has been awarded the Curtis Garrett Scholarship of Jefferson County, Colorado, in the amount of \$1,000. Melissa will use this scholarship to continue her education at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley, Colorado.

This is truly an incredible honor for Melissa, because this is the second year that she has been awarded the Curtis Garrett Scholarship. The selection committee for the scholarship was so impressed with Melissa's dedication to her degree at the University of Colorado, they decided to award her a second time, an unprecedented milestone in the history of the scholarship award.

The Curtis Garrett Scholarship is based on two criteria that Melissa has fulfilled, those being a demonstrated financial need and the desire to pursue a career in political science or education. Melissa has chosen special education as her future career.

I encourage all students at every level of education to give their personal best to their studies and educational pursuits; that they may develop a work ethic and sense of pride in their work, characteristics that will guide and help them through every step of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Melissa Fleming for winning the Curtis Garrett Scholarship, for an unprecedented 2 years. I am proud of the dedication Melissa has shown in her first year of college and have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication in her successive years at the University of Northern

Colorado and to her future career in education.

RECOGNIZING CACTUS HEALTH SERVICES

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of Health Center Week I wish to recognize Cactus Health Services. Cactus Health Services serves Terrell and Pecos Counties, two rural communities where access to healthcare is often limited. Cactus Health Services, along with other community health centers in Texas, provides much needed healthcare to uninsured and medically underserved populations. Health centers like this one expand access to quality care for all people and contain healthcare costs by promoting preventative healthcare and primary care services. Health centers are essential to our Nation's healthcare system, providing high standards of care, reducing unmet needs in underserved communities and encouraging preventative care through outreach activities. Health centers guarantee access for all individuals, helping to eliminate health disparities and achieve healthcare for all. Again, I recognize Cactus Health Services for its important contributions to healthcare and for improving the health and quality of life of the people of the 23d Congressional District of Texas.

THANKING MR. ARTHUR "ART" BALTRYM FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement on July 24, 2007, I rise today to thank Arthur "Art" Baltrym for over 32 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Art began his career with the House in 1966 as a Congressional Page. After completing his education at St. John's University in New York and Georgetown University in Washington, DC, he graduated with a bachelors degree in Political Science. At that time, he returned to the U.S. Capitol and worked as a Capitol Police Officer.

Art left the Capitol Police in 1971 to pursue a challenging opportunity to work for the Education and Labor Committee, where he worked for the next seven years. In January 1978, Art was hired by the Clerk of the House as a cabinetmaker for the former Property Supply department. Over the next 32 years, he was promoted to various positions and eventually became manager of the CAO Furnishings department. Art's accomplishments are far too lengthy to list in this tribute. However, two examples of his contributions are worthy of recognition.

After the original Speaker's Chair was given to then Speaker Thomas P. ("Tip") O'Neal for placement in his official library, the Clerk of

the House commissioned the construction of a replacement chair. Art was a key member of the team that hand-built the replacement Speaker's Chair. He personally spent numerous hours hand-carving the exquisite detail that is displayed on much of the chair. Another significant contribution was his oversight of the team which constructed the two hydraulic-controlled lecterns currently used today on the House floor.

On a more personal note and equally worthy of recognition, Art has dedicated his life to making the CAO and the U.S. House of Representatives a better place. He has served as a tutor for the CAO's literacy program since its inception. He also serves his community by working as a "Food for Others" volunteer and assisting the Arlington Street People's Assistance Network. After his retirement, it is Art's goal to pursue more volunteer opportunities and to perform community services in order to continue making a difference in the lives of others.

On behalf of the entire House community, we extend congratulations to Art for his many years of dedication and outstanding contributions to the U.S. House of Representatives. We wish him many wonderful years in fulfilling his retirement dreams.

TRIBUTE TO THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES RESOURCE CENTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center for being the recipient of the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The DDRC is one of the largest nonprofit human services agencies in Colorado with resources and services designed to provide positive choices, individualized to enhance quality of life and help people help themselves. DDRC has quietly made an incredible difference for the thousands of people it has touched with developmental disabilities and their families by its responsiveness and expanding to meet their needs.

The organization offers services and support in many forms, including resource coordination, children and family services, Medicaid support, adult vocational services, graduate activities program, quality living options, supported living services, and recreation services. All of these programs are of incredibly high quality and only further exemplify the DDRC's deservingness of this prestigious award.

The DDRC has a long history of holding a high standard of ethics. It has continually received the Better Business Gold Star Award and its code of ethics has been used as a model by the Association of Community Centered Boards.

Organizations such as the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center are an imperative in communities across the United States, because they provide a source of support for individuals and their families. Congratulations to Dr. Art Hogling, for his leadership of the DDRC. I offer my strong encouragement to the DDRC to continue their dedicated and excellent work and to all the individuals who

make the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center what it is today.

RECOGNIZING COMMUNITY HEALTH DEVELOPMENT

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, on the Occasion of Health Center Week I wish to recognize Community Health Development. Community Health Development centers serve Edwards, Real, Uvalde and Zavala Counties, four rural communities where access to healthcare is often limited. Community Health Development, along with other community health centers in Texas, provides much needed healthcare to uninsured and medically underserved populations. In rural communities, community health centers are often the only medical facility within miles, and the health professionals there serve as the family doctors for everyone in the community. Health centers like this one expand access to quality care for all people and contain healthcare costs by promoting preventative healthcare and primary care services. Health centers are essential to our Nation's healthcare system, providing high standards of care, reducing unmet needs in underserved communities and encouraging preventative care through outreach activities. Health centers guarantee access for all individuals, helping to eliminate health disparities and achieve healthcare for all. Again, I recognize Community Health Development for its important contributions to healthcare and for improving the health and quality of life of the people of the 23d Congressional District of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO US STEEL'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ARTUR DAVIS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate US Steel on their 100th anniversary of production in the State of Alabama.

In 1907, the United States was in the midst of a "financial panic" that threatened the future of the Tennessee Coal, Iron and Railroad Company (TC&I) and the jobs of thousands of people employed by the company in Alabama. The United States Steel Corporation (US Steel), the Nation's first billion dollar business enterprise, agreed to purchase a majority of the capital stock of TC&I, preserving thousands of Alabama jobs. President Theodore Roosevelt and the U.S. Justice Department gave their approval on November 4, 1907 for the merger of US Steel and TC&I to help restore public confidence in the Nation's economy, thus ending the financial panic.

Soon after the merger, US Steel significantly expanded iron and steel production in Alabama, creating thousands of new jobs, and initiating social reforms for company employees, such as: building new homes for workers, establishing community schools, and building the Lloyd Noland Hospital.

US Steel was the first steel company in America to embrace collective bargaining in 1937 by recognizing the Steel Workers Organizing Committee which became the United Steel Workers of America. The steel produced at US Steel by its Alabama employees built the ships, tanks and other military armaments that defended the United States in two world wars, as well as in the Korean War and Vietnam War.

In the past 100 years, generations of Alabama residents—estimated to exceed a million people—worked at U.S. Steel mills, coal and iron mines, barge rail lines and other commercial facilities.

US Steel continues to create quality family-supporting jobs, with health care benefits for some 2,500 skilled employees in Alabama. These employees work at plants and offices including the Fairfield Works, the largest steel making plant in the South; the Fairfield Works Seamless Pipe Mill; US Steel Realty, a major land developer in the Birmingham area; and US Steel's Transtar subsidiary that includes the Birmingham Southern Railroad, Warrior & Gulf Navigation Company, and the Mobile River Terminal at Mobile.

Despite the fierce competitive challenges in a global steel market, including unfair competition from heavily subsidized foreign steel producers, US Steel has continued to make job-creating and job-retaining capital investments in Alabama.

US Steel has a long history of supporting philanthropic and community projects to enhance the quality of life in Alabama such as the Red Mountain Oak in Birmingham, which will be the largest urban park in America. This project represents a contribution from US Steel exceeding \$10 million.

Madam Speaker, I wish to officially mark the centennial observance of the United States Steel Corporation in Alabama. I congratulate the company for 100 years of steelmaking and job-producing commercial activity in my State. Through its 100 years, US Steel and its skilled employees have made a tremendous contribution to the State's economy, and to Alabama's future as a major manufacturing center in America.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act. This bill invests \$50 billion in our children and our seniors. The minority has had no objections to spending half a trillion dollars in Iraq but objects to \$50 billion over 5 years for our children and seniors? Where are their priorities?

Passing this bill will mean that 5 million more children who are already eligible for SCHIP will be enrolled. That will bring the total number of children covered by SCHIP to 11 million. Passing this bill will mean a real investment for our children, our seniors, and, indeed, our Nation.

I urge you to vote "yes" on the CHAMP Act.

NO EARMARK REQUESTED

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, the Conference Report for H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007, indicates that I requested an earmark project in Conference Section 2014(24) for Lake Rodgers, Creedmoor, North Carolina.

I never submitted for nor requested from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee or the Conference Committee for the Water Resources Development Act this project.

TRIBUTE TO THE 150TH HARFORD FAIR

HON. CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. CARNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 150th Harford Fair to be held from August 20th to August 25th of the year Two Thousand and Seven, in Harford, Pennsylvania. The Harford Agricultural Society has held the fair as an annual tradition since 1857.

The first fair was held on November 9, 1858, in the sheds around the First Congregational Church. Seventy-six people attended. One of the first recorded exhibits was five heads of cabbage. Each weighed seventeen pounds. A few years later the fair was moved to October. The entrance fee was 10 cents and the main attractions were speakers, brass bands, plowing matches and agricultural displays.

In 1865 the fair doubled in length, spilling over to two bright October days. By 1880, 3,500 people and 1,000 teams of oxen were flocking to the 117 acres of fairground. In the early 1900s the fair hosted the first automobile and victrola, merry-go-rounds, wire walkers, drum corps and the occasional circus. The Lenoxville Band first performed in 1940 and continues to entertain fair-goers.

Now, every year on the third week of August, 65,000 visitors pour into tiny Harford to enjoy one of the few agricultural fairs left in the nation. It has grown into a six day event that allows both the young and old to present handcrafts, agricultural items, fruits, vegetables, baked goods, animals, photography and art work. Last year's fair featured 7,519 items.

The Harford Fair is my hometown fair in Susquehanna County and I am proud to recognize the fair as an enduring tribute to community pride and cooperation. I salute the many tireless volunteers who maintain the Harford Fair and its rich traditions.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Harford Fair for 150 years of family entertainment, agricultural displays and community fellowship.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE VILLAGE OF PANDORA, OHIO ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct privilege to pay tribute to a special community in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. On August 10 and 11, 2007, the Village of Pandora, Ohio will begin celebrating a truly monumental event—its 175th anniversary.

Madam Speaker, The Village of Pandora is one of a number of wonderful communities in Northwest, Ohio. As early as 1832, with the completion of the surveying of the rich and fertile woodlands of the Black Swamp region, numerous settlers, including many from Switzerland, seeking religious freedom and rich farm land chose to make their home along Riley Creek. Then in 1835, with the construction of a gristmill by pioneer John Stout, an industrious village was born. Throughout its long and tradition-filled history, Pandora has established itself as a model community.

We in Ohio's Fifth Congressional district are blessed to have such warm towns and villages like Pandora. The individuals who live in these towns and villages are truly wonderful people. They are good friends and neighbors, colleagues and coworkers, and together they form a close knit family, all sharing a common bond centered on their dedication to their community.

Over the many years that I have served in elected office, I have had numerous opportunities to travel to Pandora. Each time I visit, I am greeted by friendly people who truly know how to make one feel at home.

Madam Speaker, the individuality of the American culture and the freedom of the American spirit are embodied in small towns and villages like Pandora, Ohio. For 175 years, the Village of Pandora has served as a model by which other communities can pattern themselves. As we begin this 175th Anniversary celebration, I urge my colleagues to stand and join me in this special tribute to Pandora, Ohio.

HONORING EMMETT SHEPPARD ON HIS RETIREMENT AND CAREER OF SERVICE TO WORKING FAMILIES

HON. CHET EDWARDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. EDWARDS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a lifelong friend of working men and women, Emmett Sheppard, who has given decades of his life in service to the Labor movement. Emmett is retiring as President of the Texas AFL-CIO, but his work on behalf of working people in the Lone Star State will be felt for many years to come.

Emmett has worn many hats over the years. He served as a City Council Member and Mayor Pro Tem in his hometown of Groves, Texas. Emmett worked for the Gulf Oil Corporation, and in this capacity, he took on var-

ious responsibilities for his union, the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4-23.

In 1982, Emmett was elected President of the Sabine Area Central Labor Council, which includes a large portion of Southeast Texas. In 1989, Emmett went to work for the Texas AFL-CIO as its legislative director, where he worked hard for the interests of working men and women at the Texas Capitol.

In 1993, Emmett was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas AFL-CIO. In this capacity, Emmett worked tirelessly for workers' rights in Texas, traveling the state and listening and responding to the needs of working men and women.

In 2003, the Texas AFL-CIO recognized Emmett's leadership and dedication by unanimously electing him President of the 220,000 member organization. As President, Emmett has been an effective leader and tenacious advocate for the rights of all Texas workers.

Emmett has also served on the executive board of the Workers' Assistance Program, which assists workers with a variety of problems, and on the executive advisory board of Project SAFE Texas.

If I had to say what the secret of Emmett's success all these years has been, I would have to say that it comes down to one word: respect. Emmett respects others, and treats them accordingly. That is one of many reasons I am honored to call him my friend.

As Emmett retires, he can look forward to spending more time with his wife, Kathy, their two daughters and a granddaughter, who I understand Emmett is fond of spoiling.

Emmett, on behalf of myself and the Texas Democratic Congressional Delegation, we thank you for your service and most importantly, I thank you for your friendship. Enjoy your retirement—you have more than earned it, and I wish you all the best in the years ahead.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 31, I was unable to vote on roll No. 777 to sustain the ruling of the Chair. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on this motion.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our Nation's children, a strong and secure Medicare program, and for passage of the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007, CHAMP Act, H.R. 3162.

More than 6.6 million children today have health insurance because of the creation a decade ago of the State Children's Health Insurance Program SCHIP. However, these children will lose their access to good, affordable

health insurance if the Congress does not act to reauthorize the SCHIP program by September 30, 2007.

Today, the House will vote on the CHAMP Act, H.R. 3162, which will reauthorize and expand the SCHIP program to ensure even more children have access to the health care their parents cannot afford or who work in jobs that do not provide health care benefits. The CHAMP Act will provide 11 million children with health care, by expanding SCHIP to include an additional 5 million children who currently have no health insurance.

The CHAMP Act also provides the tools needed and creates incentives for States to reach the millions of children who are eligible but not currently enrolled in the SCHIP program. The bill ensures that children have 12 months of continuous eligibility, so their parents do not frequently have to complete a complex renewal process. Additionally, dental coverage and parity for mental health will also be provided to children under the CHAMP Act.

According to the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, more than 44 million Americans lack health care coverage, including more than 14 percent of New Jersey's residents. Many of these Americans are children. It is simply unconscionable that in our country millions of children are uninsured.

The SCHIP program is strongly supported by our Nation's governors who have managed the State-run programs over the past decade and understand that SCHIP allows States to cover low-income children who lack health insurance in families of the working poor.

New Jersey uses its SCHIP funds to run a program called FamilyCare. Our State is a leader in extending FamilyCare eligibility and currently 125,000 children as well as 85,000 low income-parents are enrolled in New Jersey's program. Without SCHIP all of these residents of New Jersey would again be uninsured.

The CHAMP Act will allow States, like New Jersey, to continue set income eligibility for the SCHIP program. Because the cost of living is so high in New Jersey, it is important that our State has the flexibility needed to establish realistic eligibility guidelines.

Additionally, the CHAMP Act will allow New Jersey to continue to enroll parents along with their children. According to research by the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies of Sciences, one highly effective way of boosting coverage among low-income children is to broaden health insurance to their parents. Currently, New Jersey is one of nine States that covers low-income parents.

Because the new Democratic majority is committed to balanced budgets and opposed to deficit spending, this bill pays for this historic commitment to our Nation's children with an appropriate increase in the Federal tobacco tax and reductions to the overpayments that have been paid to the privately run Medicare Advantage plans. Contrary to their euphemistic name, these plans have not been so advantageous for our Nation's seniors.

According to the Campaign for Tobacco-free Kids, the 45 cent-per-pack increase in the tobacco tax that is included in the CHAMP Act will result in 1,381,000 less children who will become smokers. This will improve their health and result in long-term healthcare savings of \$32.4 billion, 669,000 fewer smoking related deaths and 171,800 fewer newborn children harmed by smoking over the next 5 years.

Further, by reducing overpayments to the privately run Medicare Advantage plans, the CHAMP Act increases Medicare's solvency, and helps protect Medicare beneficiaries from higher premiums.

For our Nation's seniors the CHAMP Act makes much needed improvements to Medicare. I am pleased the CHAMP Act contains a provision I wrote when I introduced the Helping Fill the Medicare Rx Gap Act, H.R. 2058, to include costs incurred by AIDS Drug Assistance Programs, ADAPs, in calculating a Medicare Part D beneficiary's true out-of-pocket, Troop, costs. Medicare Part D pays 75 percent of a beneficiary's drug costs until their expenses reach \$2,400. Part D then stops paying and individual beneficiaries must pay for all of their drugs until total expenses reach \$5,451. This leaves a coverage gap of \$3,051—the "donut hole." "True out-of-pocket" costs, Troop in the donut hole determine when a beneficiary becomes eligible for catastrophic coverage.

Individuals suffering from HIV and AIDS need help. By including ADAP costs in calculating out-of-pocket expenses, we make them eligible sooner for help with their prescription drugs and we fix a loophole in Medicare Part D that discriminates against HIV and AIDS victims.

Additionally, under this bill the Medicare Part D late enrollment penalty for beneficiaries eligible for the Low-Income Subsidy program is eliminated and our Nation's seniors will be allowed to change their Part D plan during the year to meet their prescription needs. It also reduces the discriminatory copayments that Medicare charged for mental health services to the standard 20 percent copayment and adds additional mental health providers to Medicare so services are more easily available. Under this legislation, Medicare beneficiaries will have increased access to preventive services. The CHAMP Act also ensures that seniors have access to world class doctors by blocking a devastating cut in Medicare physician payments over the next 2 years.

The CHAMP Act is supported by the AARP, the American Medical Association, the Catholic Health Association, the National Rural Health Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Nurses Association, Families USA, the National Partnership for Women and Families, Children's Defense Fund, Child Welfare League of America, and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. All of these organizations understand that the CHAMP Act will ensure more American children have health insurance and that Medicare remains strong for decades to come.

There are 11 million reasons to vote for this bill, each one a child who will move out of the ranks of the uninsured with the health care provided in the CHAMP Act. Medicare beneficiaries will also see important improvements to their benefits. A measure of a Nation's greatness is how it treats its most vulnerable citizens. By making health insurance available for 11 million children, we live up to our moral obligation to keep children healthy and we make our society stronger. The CHAMP Act is historic legislation and I implore the President to drop his objections to this bill and join us in ensuring more Americans are healthy.

ON THE RETIREMENT OF DR. RON DEHAVEN, ADMINISTRATOR, USDA ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, as Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, APHIS, and throughout his career, Dr. W. Ron DeHaven has worked tirelessly to protect animal and plant health in the United States and advance the veterinary medical profession.

His accomplishments are numerous. In 2002–2003, Dr. DeHaven led a campaign to successfully contain and eradicate an outbreak of exotic Newcastle disease in the southwest in one-third the time and half the cost of the response to the prior outbreak in 1971.

He was the public face of the Nation's response to BSE—first with the Canadian detection in May 2003, and then the U.S. discovery of the disease later that year. Dr. DeHaven led the U.S. efforts to address domestic and international concerns as he headed the epidemiological investigation, and he appeared on television almost daily. His steady leadership and forthright communication during the crisis ensured that the public was constantly kept informed, and, as a result, consumer confidence in U.S. beef did not waiver.

Dr. DeHaven was at the helm in 2004 when USDA successfully controlled an outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza in Texas. This set the stage for his work with international animal health officials to address the currently circulating strain of Asian H5NI highly pathogenic avian influenza. He has spread the important message that we need to respond to this potential human health threat while the virus remains primarily a disease of poultry. Dr. DeHaven has also been a strong advocate for increasing veterinary infrastructure in developing nations to prevent the emergence of zoonotics—diseases that can pass from animals to humans—that increasingly jeopardize public health.

Dr. DeHaven has forged improved relationships between veterinary professionals, the agricultural community, and wildlife biologists to address diseases that affect both wildlife and livestock. One tangible product of this cooperation is the ongoing surveillance of wild birds for H5NI highly pathogenic avian influenza that is being conducted by a combination of wildlife and veterinary professionals.

In other important areas, under Dr. DeHaven's leadership as Administrator over the past 3 years, APHIS has strengthened its regulation of agricultural products derived from biotechnology to ensure that they are safe for release into the environment. The strong, science-based regulatory system forged under Dr. DeHaven's management is helping to ensure that U.S. producers and trading partners are confident in the safety of these products.

Dr. DeHaven is also renowned for his commitment to animal welfare. He served as Deputy Administrator of APHIS's Animal Care program for 5 years, ensuring that millions of animals regulated under the Animal Welfare Act are provided adequate care under the law. Dr. DeHaven also implemented an innovative risk-

based inspection system for the Animal Care program, targeting investigative and enforcement resources on bad actors.

Throughout his career, Dr. DeHaven has exhibited creativity and commitment to ensuring animal welfare and promoting U.S. agriculture. This Congress and this Nation is grateful.

HONORING MESQUITE'S NEWEST TEACHERS

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, today I would like to honor the Mesquite Independent School District's new teachers for the 2007–2008 school year.

An excellent education is fundamental to the growth and development of our Nation's youth. With over 35,000 children in the Mesquite community, it is imperative that we continue to acquire high-quality teachers.

As a father of 2 young children, I understand and appreciate the impact teachers have on the lives of our children. We are gratefully indebted to them for enriching the lives of our students. Our teachers can make a difference in the lives of each and every child they teach.

As the Congressional representative of Mesquite, Texas, it is my distinct pleasure to honor Mesquite's newest teachers in the United States House of Representatives.

BELATED THANK YOU TO MERCHANT MARINERS OF WWII ACT OF 2007

HON. STEVE BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. BUYER. Madam Speaker, I have reservations regarding H.R. 23, as amended, the Belated Thank You to Merchant Mariners of World War II Act of 2007. I believe that H.R. 23, as amended, sets a poor precedent by awarding a \$1,000 monthly payment to World War II Merchant Mariners. The authorization described in the bill has no requirement for the Merchant Mariner to have a disability or suffer from financial hardship. Currently, the only veterans authorized to receive a service pension are Medal of Honor recipients.

Whether or not to grant an unprecedented new service pension to World War II Merchant Mariners is not a question of bravery or contributions to victory over the Axis in 1945. Those questions have long been settled to the resounding credit of the mariners who braved unspeakable dangers to transport cargo that kept the Atlantic Alliance alive and fighting.

The Merchant Mariners serving during World War II were given veteran status under a system established by Congress in the G.I. Bill Improvement Act of 1977, Public Law 95–202. This process determined if civilian groups of World War II, like Merchant Mariners, should receive veteran status based on their service during the war. As of 1992, all World War II Merchant Mariners who served from the beginning of the war through victory in Japan

day received full veteran status under this system. This means that all of these World War II Merchant Mariners are veterans and qualify for all VA benefits and services including healthcare and old age pension.

An objective and carefully researched report on the contributions of Merchant Mariners during World War II and post-war benefits for which they were eligible can be found in the Congressional Research Service Report for Congress, Veterans Benefits: Merchant Seamen, May 8, 2007 (Order Code: RL33992: <http://www.congress.gov/erp/r1/pdf/RL33992.pdf>), by Christine Scott and Douglas Reid Weimer.

Thirty other groups that provided military-related service to the U.S. in World War II have received veteran status in the same manner as the Merchant Mariners. However, this bill ignores their service to the nation; it focuses only on the service provided by Merchant Mariners who served during that same period. These groups include the Women's Air Force Service Pilots, the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, the famed Flying Tigers and many others who gained their status decades after their service. They served loyally, selflessly, and courageously. Their service contributed directly to victory in 1945. Yet this bill does nothing for them.

During the full Committee markup of H.R. 23, I offered an amendment that would include these groups, which was defeated by voice vote. I attach a list of the other veteran groups that received veteran status under the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 (P.L. 78–346) [Attachment A].

I also find the funding mechanism for this bill to be of concern. When this bill was introduced in previous Congresses, it was determined that because the benefit was an entitlement, it was subject to PAYGO offset requirements. However, the current bill uses a compensation fund to turn this entitlement into discretionary spending. This side-steps budget rules and places an unnecessary burden on the Appropriations Committees.

There is no current appropriations measure that would fund this benefit. The Committee on Veterans' Affairs, which is unable to identify the necessary PAYGO offsets to fund this benefit, is simply passing the buck to the Appropriations Committee. I do not believe this is a fiscally sound way to legislate. Further, if insufficient funds were to be appropriated, only some Merchant Mariners would receive the benefit, while others would not.

The Military Officers Association of America (MOAA), in opposing this bill said, "If these measures were approved, the annuity payable for even a single month of Merchant Marine service in World War II would significantly exceed those payable to thousands of World War II combat veterans who served far longer and suffered significant combat disabilities . . ." MOAA also wrote, "A World War II military veteran who served 20 years and retired in 1955 at the grade of E–5 [sergeant] is entitled to a military retired pay check of only \$900 today."

I believe this legislation, though well-meaning, breaches precedent of pension policy law and does not make the best use of taxpayer dollars. I fear that it will have unintended consequences for future Congresses.

ATTACHMENT A

RECOGNIZED GROUPS UNDER PUBLIC LAW 95–202

1. 8 Mar 79—Women's Air Force Service Pilots (WWII).

2. 22 Jan 81—Civilian Employees, Pacific Naval Air Bases, Who Actively Participated in the Defense of Wake Island during WWII.

3. 17 Jul 81—Male Civilian Ferry Pilots (WWII).

4. 7 Apr 82—Wake Island defenders from Guam (WWII).

5. 27 Dec 82—Civilian Personnel Assigned to the Secret Intelligence Element of the OSS (WWII).

6. 10 May 83—Guam Combat Patrol (WWII).

7. 7 Feb 84—Quartermaster Corps Keswick Crew on Corregidor (WWII).

8. 7 Feb 84—U.S. Civilian Volunteers Who Actively Participated in the Defense of Bataan (WWII).

9. 18 Oct 85—U.S. Merchant Seamen Who Served on Blockships in Support of Operation Mulberry (WWII).

10. 19 Jan 88—American Merchant Marine in Oceangoing Service during the Period of Armed Conflict, December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945 (WWII).

11. 2 Aug 88—Civilian U.S. Navy IFF Technicians Who Served in the Combat Areas of the Pacific during World War II (December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945) (WWII).

12. 30 Aug 90—U.S. Civilians of the American Field Service (AFS) Who Served Overseas Under U.S. Armies and U.S. Army Groups in World War II During the Period December 7, 1941, through May 8, 1945 (WWII).

13. 5 Oct 90—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of American Airlines Who Served Overseas as a result of American Airlines' Contract with Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

14. 8 Apr 91—Civilian Crewmen of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey vessels who performed their service in areas of immediate military hazard while conducting cooperative operations with and for the United States Armed Forces within a time frame of December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945 (WWII).

15. 3 May 91—Honorably Discharged Members of the American Volunteer Group (Flying Tigers) Who Served During the Period December 7, 1941, to July 18, 1942 (WWII).

16. 12 May 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of United Air Lines (UAL), Who Served Overseas as a Result of UAL's Contract With the Air Transport Command During the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

17. 12 May 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Transcontinental and Western Air (TWA), Inc., Who Served Overseas as a Result of TWA's Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

18. 14 May 92—American Field Service (AFS) who served honorably on flights with the 3d Combat Cargo Squadron, Army Air Forces, December 7, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (Addendum to August 30, 1990 AFS (WWII) SAF decision) (WWII).

19. 14 May 92—Addendum which adds three ships (Oceanographer, Hydrographer, and Pathfinder) to the April 8, 1991, USCGS SAF decision (WWII).

20. 29 Jun 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation (Convair Division), Who Served Overseas as a Result of a Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period (WWII) U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support during the Period December 7, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

21. 29 Jun 92—Honorably Discharged Members of the American Volunteer Guard, Eritrea Service Command during the Period June 21, 1942 to March 31, 1943 (WWII).

22. 29 Jun 92—Addendum for “oceangoing” merchant marine (includes U.S. Army Corps Engineers, U.S. Army Coast Artillery Corps, or U.S. Army Air Force) (WWII).

23. 17 Jul 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Pan American World Airways and its subsidiaries and affiliates, Who Served Overseas as a Result of Pan American’s Contract with the Air Transport Command and Naval Air Transport Service during the Period December 14, 1941 through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

24. 4 Nov. 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Eastern Air Lines-Military Transport Division (EAL-MTD), Who Served Overseas as a Result of EAL-MTD’s Contract With the Air Transport Command During the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

25. 13 Dec 92—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Northwest Airlines, Who Served Overseas as a Result of Northwest Airline’s Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945 (WWII).

26. 13 Dec 93—U.S. Civilian Female Employees of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps While Serving in the Defense of Bataan and Corregidor During the Period January 2, 1942, to June 12, 1945 (WWII).

27. 2 Jun 97—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Braniff Airways, who served overseas in the North Atlantic or under the jurisdiction of the North Atlantic Wing as a result of a contract with Air Transport Command during the period February 26, 1942, to August 14, 1945 (WWII).

28. 2 Jun 97—U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Northeast Airlines Atlantic Division, who served overseas as a result of Northeast Airlines’ contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 7, 1941, to August 14, 1945 (WWII).

29. 27 Aug 99—Operational Analysis Group of the Office of Scientific Research and Development, who served overseas from December 7, 1941, through August 15, 1945.

30. 30 Sep 99—Three scout/guides assisting U.S. Marines in offensive operations in Northern Mariana Islands from June 19, 1944, through September 2, 1945.

31. 30 Sep 99—Approximately 50 Chamorro and Carolinian policemen, who received military training and under the command of the 6th Provisional Military Police Battalion, to accompany U.S. Marines in combat patrol activity from August 19, 1945, to September 2, 1945.

32. 21 Feb 03—Reconsideration of “Pursers” as part of the Flight Crews of U.S. Civilian Flight Crew and Aviation Ground Support Employees of Transcontinental and Western Air (TWA), Inc., Who Served Overseas as a Result of TWA’s Contract with the Air Transport Command during the Period December 14, 1941, through August 14, 1945.

RECOGNIZING 30 YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE BY KENT KEYSER

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to recognize 30 years of public service by my Chief of Staff, Kent Keyser. Kent started as one of my first 2 summer interns in 1977. He then volunteered in my Huntington office for several weeks before I

offered him a part time position, while he was attending Marshall University. He worked in Huntington doing constituent services, before becoming my District Representative and eventually my Federal Programs Coordinator. In December 1988 he came to Washington as my Chief of Staff. He continues to assist my constituents of the Third Congressional District with the highest caliber of service. His trustworthiness and dependability over the years have guided me and my staff through many challenges. Kent is well known for greeting members of my Washington staff with the question “What have you done for West Virginia today?” His loyalty to our State and my staff and me is obvious to everyone who knows him. One of the historical figures he most admires is Thomas Jefferson, whom he likes to quote, “All things are changeable except the inalienable rights of man.” And truly he is helping me work to change the Third District of West Virginia for the better. Kent is an asset to my staff, and also a personal friend. I want to publicly thank him for his service and tireless efforts on behalf of West Virginians. From Kenova, WV to the Nation’s Capitol, while a long distance, he has never journeyed far from his upbringing near the banks of the Big Sandy and Ohio rivers. On behalf of the people in the great State of West Virginia we thank you for 3 decades of giving of your self to our State and Nation.

IN HONOR OF THE 120TH BIRTHDAY AND LIFE OF MARCUS MOSIAH GARVEY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the life and contributions of the late Marcus Mosiah Garvey and to acknowledge the 120th anniversary of the day of his birth, August 17, 1887, a day which will be celebrated later this month in the United States, the Caribbean, and throughout the diaspora.

One hundred and twenty years ago, on August 17, the revolutionary, Marcus Mosiah Garvey was born in Saint Ann Bay, Jamaica. His father was a mason and his mother was a farmer. Although his dad used his hands to make a living, he loved literature and created a large library. The library became the initial information source that cultivated young Marcus’s love of reading and hunger for knowledge.

At approximately the age of 14, he left Saint Ann’s Bay and became an apprentice. He held the positions of Master Printer and Foreman at P.A. Benjamin Printery. In a short time, he was elected to serve as vice president of the Kingston Union, participated in a printers strike, was fired from his job, created The Watchman newspaper and found a new job at the Government Printing Office. All of this advocacy on behalf of the rights of workers prepared him for becoming an outspoken leader against oppression and an advocate for freedom and self determination.

From 1910 to 1913, he traveled throughout Central America and London. During this time, he attended Birkbeck College and held jobs as a timekeeper and newspaper editor. While in

London, he spoke at Hyde’s Park Speaker’s Corner, where his public speaking skills, developed in Jamaica, were honed before ever larger audiences.

He returned to Jamaica in 1914 and founded the Universal Negro Improvement and Conservation Association and African Communities League. The mission of the organization was to “unite all people of African ancestry of the world to one great body to establish a country and absolute government of their own.”

He came to the United States and established himself in Harlem, New York, to share the mission of the organization in 1916. Initially he spoke out on the street corners of New York and later went on a nationwide speaking tour. The late Adam Clayton Powell declared that Garvey “awakened a race consciousness that made Harlem felt around the world.” Through speaking and the newspaper he created, the Negro World, membership in the organization grew to an amazing two million plus. To further support the ideas of the organization’s mission, he incorporated a shipping line, Black Star Lines to transport goods and people of African descent back to Africa. An investigation of the organization and Black Star Lines led to a wrongful indictment and arrest of Mr. Garvey. This investigation marked the beginning of an effort to destroy him and the organization.

In 1919, he was shot by a man who committed suicide immediately after the shooting. In that same year, he and others were unjustly investigated by the FBI and charged with mail fraud in connection with Black Star Lines. Only Mr. Garvey was found guilty and received a sentence of five years. He adamantly proclaimed his innocence and many believed then and now that he was set up for political reasons. He served time in Atlanta and his sentence was commuted by President Calvin Coolidge in 1927. Upon his release, he was deported to Jamaica.

He continued to serve as a revolutionary and political activist by establishing Jamaica’s first political party, the People’s Political Party, serving as the Councillor for the Allman Town Division of the Capitol City, Kingston. In 1935, he moved to London and worked on issues that involved Ethiopia and set up a school to train leaders for the organization he founded. In 1940, he passed away from a stroke after reading a false obituary of himself published in the Chicago Defender.

Mr. Garvey was a bold visionary. His idea and commitment to move people of African descent back to Africa and establish a government of self-determination are still inspiring today. Since he was investigated and convicted, his vision and efforts to mobilize people of African descent to return to Africa did not materialize. President Coolidge’s action could be interpreted as an admission of wrongdoing by the U.S. government. However, his name has not been formally cleared.

On August 17, 2007, people will celebrate the birth and life of Mr. Garvey. I applaud and encourage people all over the world to celebrate the life of such a great man. I also urge my colleagues to support my bill, H. Con. Res. 24, which calls for expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should grant a pardon to Marcus Mosiah Garvey to clear his name and affirm his innocence of crimes for which he was unjustly prosecuted and convicted.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the rule and underlying bill, the CHAMP Act. I want to thank our leadership for their vision and commitment in bringing this critical legislation before us today.

Mr. Speaker, as one of the primary authors of California's version of children's health insurance, the Healthy Families Act, I know this bill will help reverse the neglect and devastation to our health care system that has been inflicted over the last dozen years.

The CHAMP Act will finally provide much needed care for the 5 million uninsured children across this Nation.

The CHAMP Act will finally allow millions of seniors the access to affordable, quality health care that the Bush administration's Medicare cuts have denied.

Finally, while I remain opposed to scientifically unsound abstinence-only programs I support the CHAMP Act's acknowledgment that these programs in their current form are not serving the needs of our young people who deserve access to medically-accurate, life-saving comprehensive sex education.

Mr. Speaker, as important a step forward as this bill is, our goal must remain providing universal health care to all Americans. The future of our Nation depends on it.

THE CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman/lady from [STATE] for yielding me this time. I request unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, today's debate is about promises and responsibility. It is about the promise of an American childhood. It is about our responsibility to protect the health and well-being of those who grow up in the world's most prosperous Nation.

It is about the promise of a better world for our children and grandchildren. We have a responsibility to create a healthcare system that is fair, equitable, and affordable for all Americans, regardless of their income.

Mr. Speaker, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act delivers on these promises and fulfills these responsibilities. It revitalizes and expands one of the most successful and cost-effective health initiatives we have: the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

SCHIP is a model for how government programs should work. It has saved money for taxpayers by helping children avoid costly hospital and emergency room trips. It has made states equal partners in the program's administration, giving them flexibility and a stake in

the outcome. Most critically, it has provided six million kids with health care that they would not otherwise have.

Because of SCHIP, six million American kids are healthier and more vibrant. Six million young lives are better because of this program. Isn't this what good government is supposed to accomplish?

There is still more for us to do, though. Millions of children in our country cannot go to a doctor when they feel sick. In my hometown of Sacramento, 17,000 kids cannot get the medicines they need until they go to an emergency room. This is unacceptable to me, Madam Speaker. It should be unacceptable to every single Member of Congress.

When I cast my vote for this bill today, it will be a vote for the future of our country. It will be an investment in the children who are the future.

Mr. Speaker, I stand before this House today as a colleague, but also as a proud grandmother. My two beautiful grandchildren are named Anna and Robby, and most of what I do here in Congress is colored by how it will affect them and their generation.

Anna and Robby are fortunate in that they have stable, reliable health insurance. Millions of their peers are not so lucky.

I am confident that if we all do so, we will see that voting "Yes" on the CHAMP Act is not only the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do. It will secure our country's future by providing healthcare for the millions of American kids who literally are our country's future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE EARLY TREATMENT FOR HIV ACT

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, today is an exciting day as I join with you and Representative ROS-LEHTINEN and over 50 bipartisan cosponsors—27 Democrats and 27 Republicans to re-introduce the Early Treatment for HIV Act.

Today is just one day in a long journey to promoting common sense health care in the Medicaid program. Medicaid coverage for people living with HIV is contingent on two factors; qualifying as low income and meeting the Social Security definition of disability. What this means for uninsured HIV Positive people is that outside of the Ryan White CARE ACT, HIV positive people must wait for their health status to be compromised beyond repair, to deteriorate to full blown AIDS before they can get healthcare coverage under Medicaid. This defies logic as current Federal guidelines call for early access to medical care and treatment including the use of combination antiretroviral therapy.

The Early Treatment for HIV Act, ETHA, gives states the OPTION of amending their Medicaid eligibility requirements to include uninsured, pre-disabled low-income people living with HIV. ETHA is modeled after the successful Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Act, BCCA, that allows States to provide early access to Medicaid to women with cancer. As with the BCCA, participating States would receive an enhanced Federal

matching rate, the same that is provided through the breast and cervical cancer Medicaid project and SCHIP.

Earlier access to health care for people with HIV/AIDS is cost effective. It improves both the health and quality of life of many people living with HIV. By keeping people healthy, the government saves money on expensive medical interventions, such as emergency care or hospitalizations. Furthermore, new medications now allow people with HIV to remain in the workforce longer, and reduces the need for support from government income subsidy programs like SSI and SSDI.

Will the cost-savings be immediate? No. But after a number of years, when early, effective treatment will limit the number of people whose health status progresses to full-blown AIDS, health care costs will be minimized, and best of all there will be a 50 percent decrease in lives lost to this terrible disease.

As all of you know, I have been advocating for improving access to quality healthcare for those with HIV/AIDS for my entire career in public service.

I was deeply troubled 2 years ago when the Energy and Commerce Committee "reformed" Medicaid during the Deficit Reduction Act. I offered ETHA as an amendment during that mark up and secured the first ever vote on that bill. As I said to then Chairman JOE BARTON "if our committee is sincere about Medicaid reform outside of this budget driven reconciliation process, than we should seriously consider the huge improvements in health outcomes and long term cost-savings that will be realized over time through the Early Treatment to HIV." Unfortunately, the amendment was not agreed to.

In the past Congress, I was deeply involved in the negotiations of the Ryan White Care Act. Those initially writing the Reauthorization shifted huge numbers in funding away from the epicenters of the AIDS epidemic to other emerging communities and added language that would make it harder for providers to serve those most in need. A common sense approach would have been to just fund the bill at higher levels to keep states from being pit against each other for scarce funding. We righted some of the wrongs in that bill though, and will continue to work to strengthen the Ryan White program.

Madam Speaker, today is a new day though and a new Congress. With an equal number of Democrats and Republicans pushing for Early Treatment for HIV in the Medicaid program today, we have a new opportunity to enact common sense, life-saving treatment.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, during the last set of votes last evening, I unintentionally voted against the conference report on H.R. 1495, the Water Resources Development Act of 2007.

I ask that it be put into the permanent record that I fully support the passage of the conference report and ask that my vote be

changed in the record from a "nay" vote to a "yea" vote.

For the 11th Congressional District that I represent as well as for all of Illinois, passage of this legislation is of the utmost importance. WRDA contains instructions at my request for the Army Corps of Engineers to carry out studies and projects within my district at LaSalle and at Ballard's Island in the Illinois River. The conference report also contains the critical updating of the lock and dam system on the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, vital to Illinois farmers and exports.

In closing, I want to commend Chairman OBERSTAR and Ranking Member MICA for producing a good bipartisan bill again and I am hopeful that this year we can finally get this bill to the President for his signature.

ON THE DEATH OF PATRIARCH TEOCTIST

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on Monday, July 30, Patriarch Teoctist, the head of the Romanian Orthodox Church, died in Bucharest of complications after a surgery. He was 92 years old and had not been in good health for several weeks.

As a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Helsinki Commission, I have been very concerned and active on issues regarding the promotion of human rights and children's rights in Romania. I have visited Romania five times—both when it was under Communist rule and since 1990—and I know Patriarch Teoctist was respected and beloved by millions of Romanians. He became patriarch in 1986, resigned immediately after the revolution in 1989 that overthrew the dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaușescu, but was recalled by the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

Madam Speaker, after 1990 Teoctist promoted ecumenical dialogue. He invited Pope John Paul II to visit Romania. This visit took place in 1999 in Bucharest, where Teoctist met with Pope John Paul II, embraced him fraternally and prayed with him. What a magnificent gesture! It was the first time the Roman pontiff visited a predominantly Orthodox country since the schism of 1054.

At this time of sorrow, I wish to express my condolences to the Romanian Orthodox believers and confidence and prayers that Teoctist rest in peace.

LILLY LEDBETTER FAIR PAY ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2831, the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. I want to thank the Chairman and Ranking Member for bringing this important bill to the House floor.

H.R. 2831 is designed to be an important but narrow reversal of the Ledbetter decision,

without upsetting any other current law. As many of us here today know, earlier this year, the Supreme Court decision Ledbetter versus Goodyear made it much harder for workers to pursue pay discrimination claims based on the fact that plaintiffs would need to file their charge of pay discrimination within 180 days of the employer's decision to pay them less.

What was particularly disturbing about this decision was the fact that it stripped Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of its longstanding position that every paycheck resulting from an earlier discriminatory pay decision is considered a violation of the Civil Rights Act. The importance of this consideration of each and every paycheck is vital to the CRA.

Furthermore, the Supreme Court decision was untenable. Employees often do not know what their co-workers earn, or how and when pay decisions are made. These dynamics in the workplace make it nearly impossible to file a complaint precisely when discrimination first occurs. Many times they find this out far after the fact, and thus need a filing deadline that takes this time delay into account.

The bill before us today maintains the law's current statute of limitations and limits on back pay recovery. It states that an employee must still file a charge within the statutory filing period after receiving a discriminatory paycheck but would provide a realistic timeline consistent with the Civil Rights Act.

Again, I thank the Chairman for bringing up this bill that calls attention to the fact that we need to make our pay discrimination laws work in a much more realistic and fair way for all parties involved.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 779, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall No. 780, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 781, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 782, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 783, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 784, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 785, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 786, I would have voted "nay." On rollcall No. 787, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 788, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 789, I would have voted "yea." On rollcall No. 790, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING DR. KAY HILL ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to join the family, friends and colleagues who have gathered this evening to celebrate the retirement and the remarkable contributions to our community of Dr. Kay Hill—one of my dearest friends. An educator, mentor, advocate, and friend, Kay

has touched the lives of tens of thousands through her teaching, writing, and constant self-learning, even as she devoted herself to her family, through tough times and good times.

Upon graduation from Yale University, Kay began her career with the New Haven Public Schools system as an English as a Second Language instructor at the Welch School. Just a year later, she became the Supervisor of the World Language Program for 38 elementary, middle and high schools. Through intelligence, a strong work ethic, and compassion, Kay has earned the love and respect of her students and colleagues alike. It has been under her leadership that the program has grown from 24 to 80 teachers and currently has 6,370 foreign language students and 690 dual language students enrolled. Perhaps the most telling examples of the success of this program have been the outstanding achievements of its students who have excelled at the state COLT poetry recitation contest as well as on national and state exams.

Kay has always had a passion for foreign language and education. To understand her enthusiasm and her deep commitment to education, one only has to look to the inspiration she received from her parents. Her mother traveled to Paraguay at a young age on a missionary trip sponsored by her Mennonite church. It was during her time with this program that she learned the Spanish language—a passion which she passed on to Kay. Kay's father had an illustrious career as a minister with the Church Center for the United Nations and later as a minister for world peace in Tampa, FL. Even in his retirement, he continued to make a difference as writer and editor of a social justice newsletter. Like so many of us, Kay took the lessons she learned as a child and made her own mark on the world.

In her position as supervisor for the World Language Program, she traveled extensively, opening the doors of opportunity for her students. Her first trip was to Russia where she and 30 students spent 3½ weeks touring the country visiting Moscow, St. Petersburg, and Nizhny Novgorod. Kay's dedication to education—especially foreign language education—has been recognized on many levels. She attended an international conference for compensatory education in Paris where she was the only educator representing the United States and was sent by the Connecticut Department of Education to recruit and interview prospective educators. Just last year, Kay traveled to China with a group sponsored by the Chinese government aimed at learning more about their culture and to promote Chinese language education.

As an educator, Kay's leadership and vision opened many doors to her students, however, it is through her dedication and love as a parent that one truly sees the difference she can make in the life of a young person. As the mother of an autistic child, Kay has diligently sought out every possible program and opportunity for her son, Peter, to learn and grow—and what a young man he is. She and her husband, Mitch, make each other stronger, as they knock down the barriers that fate has put in front of them. Reflecting their determination and leadership, their daughter, Lily, recently co-chaired the annual State Prejudice Reduction Conference—a leadership conference of more than 1,000 students from across the state.

I also must take this opportunity to thank Kay for her many years of special friendship. As an educator, parent, and colleague, Kay has inspired greatness in others, including myself—leaving an indelible mark on their lives. I am proud to join her husband, Mitch, her children, Peter and Lily, as well as all of the friends and colleagues who have gathered this evening to extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Kay Hill as she celebrates her retirement.

TURKEY PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION

HON. C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Madam Speaker, as a Member of the Intelligence Committee, I congratulate the nation of Turkey on its recent elections. On July 22, 2007, 43 million Turkish citizens—over 80 percent of Turkey's population—exercised their civic responsibility and went to the polls to elect Turkey's 550-member parliament for the next 5 years. The election occurred without incident or allegations of impropriety. With this election, Turkey affirmed that its democracy is alive and well, and provided an inspiring example to other nations in the region.

The election will seat three parties in Parliament: the Justice and Development Party (AKP), the Republican People's Party (CHP), and the National Action Party (MHP). In addition, 27 seats will be filled by independents.

Turkey's financial markets reacted with enthusiasm to the elections. On Monday, July 23, the Istanbul Stock Exchange (IMKB) rose by 5.08 percent, hitting a record high at one point during the day, reacting to expectations of continued stability and increased economic prosperity.

Foreign governments and world leaders praised the election process as free and fair. Numerous major media outlets, including The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times here in the United States, published positive editorials praising the "wisdom of the Turks" and noting that "democracy was affirmed."

America must cultivate and support our allies. We must reach out to moderate Muslim nations in the Middle East and build stronger relationships to repair our reputation abroad. Allies like Turkey can help foster economic and regional security. Turkey supports the Global War on Terrorism and is a critical ally in keeping nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists.

As the only democracy in the Middle East with a predominantly Muslim population, the significance of this election cannot be understated. The U.S.-Turkey relationship is critical to both nations' security. Turkey is and will continue to be an important and strategic ally of the United States. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Turkey on this impressive achievement of democracy.

U.S. TROOP READINESS, VETERANS' CARE, KATRINA RECOVERY, AND IRAQ ACCOUNTABILITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation before the House that fixes a drafting error that has kept ranchers in Kansas from receiving important disaster assistance. My top priority this year has been to see that the agricultural producers in my district who have been devastated by extreme weather are given the support needed to stay on their feet and continue feeding our nation.

I was glad to see Congress recognize the importance of delivering disaster assistance to our country's hardest hit producers. I was not glad to see an error in the bill effectively prohibit ranchers from receiving this aid. A provision required ranchers to have participated in a particular insurance pilot program. The problem is that this pilot program does not exist.

Absent the fix we are making here today, some producers in Kansas, at no fault of their own, will not be in business come winter. In Kansas, we have struggled through 5 and 6 years of drought followed by last year's strong winter storms in December that caused 44 of Kansas' 105 counties to be declared natural disasters. And as you have all seen, tornadoes, hail and floods have now affected the rest of the State of Kansas. In total, 65 of the 69 counties I represent have been declared federal disaster areas this year.

I am grateful we are taking action to allow the intended disaster assistance to reach ranchers across the plains. The bill before us, the Senate version of a bill I introduced here in the House, will simply strike the one sentence in the disaster bill that is causing the problem.

So, Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation, and I ask my colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats, to support this bill.

HONORING THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION ON ITS 125TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COOPER

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the African Methodist Episcopal Church Sunday School Union on the occasion of its 125th anniversary. The Sunday School Union has played a critical role not only in preserving the church's history, but also in educating its members and providing an encouraging vision for the future. For over a century, the Union has been a fine contributor to the Nashville community, to the State of Tennessee, and to many parts of the world that have benefited from this organization's publications and services.

As far back as 1818, there grew a call within the African Methodist Episcopal Church for an organization that would produce suitable literature for its youth and would advocate training for its Sunday school teachers. Richard Allen, the church's founder, knew that in order for the church to grow, effective circulation of the information would be essential.

In 1847, the A.M.E. Church began considering several proposals for an organization that could achieve these goals. In 1882, after over 60 years of preparation, Reverend Charles Smith presented the final plan to the bishop in Cape May, NJ. The Department of Publications and Book Concern was created, publishing the first Sunday school literature by African-Americans. In a letter to Reverend Smith, Frederick Douglass wrote that the Union "will doubtless be a luminous point in the moral and intellectual progress of the colored people of the South."

In 1886, Reverend Smith purchased a five-story brick building on the square in Nashville for the newly founded organization. Madam Speaker, I take great pride in the fact that, since that time, Nashville has been the headquarters for the Sunday School Union.

In the years that followed, a number of dedicated and capable men led the Union. They sought to innovate the production process and to improve the quality of the publications. Reverend William Chappelle took over for Reverend Smith in 1900 as secretary-treasurer and served for 8 years. He was followed by Ira Bryant, under whose leadership the Union acquired additional property and purchased a modern printing plant. Then in 1936, E.A. Selby headed the Union, and it was during his term that the Department of Publications and the Book Concern merged with the Sunday School Union.

Reverend Charles Spivey, Sr., was elected in 1964 and served until his retirement in 1972. Upon the announcement of his retirement, Reverend Spivey made a generous donation of \$20,000 to the A.M.E. Church to help support its continued growth. Reverend Henry Belin, Jr., who followed Spivey, secured a new publishing house for the Union. Under his leadership, the Union published not only denominational materials, but also several scholarly works covering topics such as theology and history.

Reverend Belin was ordained as a bishop in 1984, and Reverend A. Lee Henderson was elected in his stead. Henderson revamped the Union's publications, giving the Sunday school literature and other publications a new look through the use of brilliant color and creative graphics.

In 2000, Reverend Dr. Johnny Barbour was elected. The efforts of Secretary-Treasurer Barbour and of Bishops Philip Cousin, Sr., McKinley Young, Gregory Ingram, and Vashti McKenzie have combined to lead the Union to its current strong state on its 125th anniversary. Because of their passion, the Union can look forward to a bright future.

This anniversary marks real accomplishment that years of perseverance have made possible. For decades, the African Methodist Episcopal Sunday School Union has focused its energy and its talent, making itself a first-class publishing institution. Today, the A.M.E. Sunday School Union continues its mission, publishing the highest quality hymnals, study courses, and church materials.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the African Methodist Episcopal Sunday

School Union, whose exemplary publications have strengthened the church and have fostered intellectual growth for over a century. I would like to ask the House to join me in extending warm congratulations to the Sunday School Union on its 125th anniversary. May it enjoy many years of continued success.

HONORING THE NEW HAVEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the community of my hometown, New Haven, CT, as friends, colleagues, and community leaders gather to celebrate a remarkable milestone—the 100th anniversary of the New Haven County Bar Association. Founded in the late 18th century and incorporated in 1907, this organization serves as the professional association for judges, attorneys, and legal paraprofessionals throughout the greater New Haven area.

As one can see from the historical exhibition currently on display at the New Haven Museum and Historical Society, the legal community has long played a unique and integral role in the rich history of New Haven. From the earliest days of the colony and the *Amistad* case in the 1840s through the Black Panther trial in the 1970s and *Connecticut v. Griswold* in 1965, New Haven attorneys and judges have been at the center of legal decisions which have helped to define our Nation. Beyond those cases which garnered national attention, the exhibit also reminds us of the many local lawyers who had a significant impact on the character of our community. Theophilus Eaton wrote the laws of the New Haven Colony in the 1600s, Joseph Sheldon actively hired African-American law students in the 1880s and was influential in the development of the American Red Cross, George Dudley Seymour who was known for his dedication to civic duty in the 1900s, and Mary Manchester, who, in 1938, was the first woman to be named a law partner in Connecticut.

Today, the New Haven County Bar Association is more than simply a professional association. It supports its members in many ways including continuing legal education programs, new attorney mentoring opportunities, annual social events and working to foster relations between its members and the courts. The Bar Association is also the sponsor of the New Haven County Lawyer Referral Service—a not-for-profit public service that, for more than 50 years, has referred members of the public to private attorneys experienced in the appropriate field of law. The Bar Association also works closely with its charitable arm, the New Haven County Bar Foundation, Inc., which provides charitable outreach and educational programming.

As members gather this evening in celebration of the New Haven County Bar Association's 100th anniversary, we pay tribute to the many invaluable contributions the legal minds of our community have made locally, state-

wide, and nationally—but most importantly for the countless hours of hard work they do every day for their clients. While New Haven certainly has had its share of compelling legal cases which have caught the public's attention, more often than not, our lawyers, judges, and legal paraprofessionals are working on cases which—while they may not make national headlines—have a real impact on the lives of those they are representing. For the outstanding work they do every day and for the many contributions they make to our community, I am honored to stand today to extend my sincere congratulations to the New Haven County Bar Association and its membership as they celebrate their centennial anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COINAGE MATERIALS MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Madam Speaker, along with my distinguished colleague from Massachusetts, Mr. FRANK, I am proud to introduce the Coinage Materials Modernization Act of 2007.

This legislation, which is supported by the Treasury Department, would update the law governing the materials used to mint U.S. coins by authorizing the Treasury Secretary to change the composition of coins to less expensive materials.

The immediate purpose of this legislation is to address the rising cost to taxpayers of minting pennies and nickels. Currently pennies are made mostly of zinc and have a copper-plated surface. Nickels are made up of an alloy of 75 percent copper and 25 percent nickel. Since March of 2003, world demand for core metals has driven up the price of copper and nickel by 300 percent and of zinc by 450 percent. At the current specifications for these coins, it costs the Government 1.7 cents to make a penny and 10 cents to make a nickel.

Other coin denominations continue to be made at costs well below their face values, but metal cost is increasing for them as well. This legislation will allow Treasury to change the composition of all U.S. coins to less expensive alternatives and dramatically reduce the costs of producing these coins.

The Treasury Department estimates that by changing the composition of pennies and nickels, we will save the Government over \$100 million a year; and by making similar changes to the half dollar, quarter and dime, the Government can save as much as \$400 million annually.

Under current law, the Treasury Secretary cannot change the base metals used to make our Nation's coinage without congressional action. The Secretary has the authority to vary the alloy of copper and zinc comprising the penny, but there is little room for further adjustment. This legislation would grant the Secretary the authority to change the base metals used to mint coins, potentially saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars, without changing the visual features of our coinage.

After this bill is enacted, the United States Mint, which is a bureau within the Treasury Department, will seek public and industry com-

ment on possible alternative composition for the penny and the nickel. Following the comment period, there will be a competitive public bidding process for new coinage materials. Congress, particularly the Committee on Financial Services, chaired by my cosponsor, Mr. FRANK, and the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade and Technology, which I chair, will exercise strong oversight over this process.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, which has the potential to save the Federal Government hundreds of millions of dollars annually. The financial resources of the Federal Government are limited, and it is rare when we have the opportunity to make a simple legislative fix with the potential to save the taxpayers so much. We should take full advantage of this opportunity and pass this legislation in an expeditious manner.

IN HONOR OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PUBLIC SERVICE OF PHOEBE AND RALPH SHOTWELL OF SUSSEX COUNTY, NJ

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend two long-time public servants in Sussex County, NJ: Phoebe and Ralph Shotwell. Both are pillars of the 4-H in Sussex County, having spent a lifetime working with its programs.

Phoebe Hunt Shotwell, who first became a part of 4-H as a child, has been a volunteer leader for the 4-H cooking club, the Yeastie Beasies, for 55 years. She is on the Sussex County 4-H Advisory Council and is on the Executive Committee for the New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show. Phoebe is also a director for the Sussex County 4-H Foundation, where she reviews scholarship applications, a job for which this former assistant teacher and library aide is very well qualified. She has also volunteered her time with a number of community organizations, such as the local PTA and the Green Township Hospital Auxiliary.

Ralph Shotwell first joined his local Pequest Dairy 4-H Club in 1928 at the age of 11. Over the years, he has served as president of the Sussex County 4-H Council and has participated in a number of related efforts, including the Pomona Grange, New Jersey State Grange, Farmer's Enterprise Grange, Sussex County Agricultural Society, Sussex County Milk Producers, and Sussex County Board of Agriculture. He has also found time to serve as an elder in his church and as a volunteer firefighter and chief with the Green Township Fire Department.

It is due to the dedication and hard work of the Shotwells and volunteers like them that the 4-H program in Sussex County has grown to more than 700 members participating in 63 clubs.

Today, at the Sussex County Fairgrounds in Augusta, NJ, the Sussex County 4-H Educational Exhibit Hall Committee will dedicate the Phoebe and Ralph Shotwell 4-H Exhibit Hall. During the upcoming State Fair, the facility will be used for clinics, demonstrations,

presentations, shows, educational programming, and—most importantly—proud displays by 4-H members. I regret that I cannot be with these honored guests today as their 4-H colleagues demonstrate their extraordinary gratitude for the humble, yet outstanding public service of this Sussex County couple.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1,
IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS
OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 1, the Implementation of the 9/11 Commissions Act of 2007, which would enact the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States.

This legislation provides funding that is critical to protect our Nation and improve our preparedness capabilities. It will give us the necessary tools to secure our country by increasing rail and transit safety, improving communication for first responders, and implementing programs to prevent terrorist organizations from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

This bill is especially critical to New York, which is still recovering from the terrorist attacks on 9/11, because it will award homeland security grants based on risk assessment. Enactment of this proposal will further protect our country by requiring scanning of all cargo containers originating from foreign ports, increasing funding for baggage and checkpoint screening, and requiring scanning of all cargo on passenger flights.

H.R. 1 will help to address the many challenges that the United States faces in the wake of 9/11, and I am proud to support it.

IN CELEBRATION OF HOUSE OF
TRICKS TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY

HON. HARRY E. MITCHELL

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. MITCHELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of House of Tricks, a historic landmark restaurant in my hometown of Tempe, Arizona.

House of Tricks was established in 1987 and has since become an important and lively part of downtown Tempe. It has served innovative cuisine and fine wines for twenty years and continually attracts patrons; this is true for both those just discovering House of Tricks, as well as those who return time after time. The success of the restaurant is due to its owners, Bob and Robin Trick. Their dedication to Tempe and to their patrons has made House of Tricks a highly acclaimed destination.

The success of House of Tricks can be attributed to Robin and Bob's desire to make their restaurant a lasting part of the historical landscape. The Tricks bought a small 1920's

cottage in 1987 and expanded their restaurant in 1994 to an additional cottage. The Tricks then restored this building to its original turn of the century splendor. The gardens that connect the two cottages add to its charm and make it a peaceful and beautiful place away from the hustle and bustle of busy city life.

The success and longevity of this local restaurant is a model for independent businesses. It is for these reasons and more that I join in congratulating the Tricks on this accomplishment and wish them many more years of prosperous business.

LOWER ALSACE FIRE COMPANY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Lower Alsace Fire Company on the occasion of its 80th anniversary.

On September 24, 1927, local citizens met at the Pleasant View Hotel to form the Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lower Alsace Township. In April 1928, the Company broke ground for the original building and, in September 1928, the building was dedicated. Soon after, the Company created the Ladies' Auxiliary, which faithfully served the community until 2001. The Company and the Auxiliary worked together to raise funds for the needed start-up firefighting equipment and continue to work hard to raise funds to maintain and acquire equipment necessary to protect the public.

This fire company serves an area of six square miles with over 2,500 residents. Currently, there are over 30 active firemen and five well-maintained pieces of equipment that protect and serve the local community. This Company is equipped and trained to fight fires, respond to hazardous material incidents, provide advanced life support emergency medical services, participate in vehicle rescues, and partake in search and rescue missions.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the members of the Community Volunteer Fire Company of Lower Alsace Township, Pennsylvania as they celebrate their 80th anniversary. We all extend our best wishes and heartfelt congratulations for the Company's years of exemplary community service and outstanding dedication to protecting the lives and property of area citizens.

CONGRATULATING THE EBUSUA
CLUB OF SAN BRUNO FOR ITS
EXTRAORDINARY GENEROSITY
TOWARD THE PEOPLE OF GHANA
AND ITS DEEP COMMITMENT TO
BUILDING COMMUNITY IN THE
BAY AREA

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional organization based in San Bruno, California. The Ebusua Club is a truly unique and outstanding group,

made up of 18 Ghanaian-American families. Together, they work to improve lives in the Republic of Ghana, which was once their home, while building community in the San Francisco Bay Area where they have put down roots. Ebusua's annual events and charitable activities set a singular example for the people of both countries. By sponsoring projects that range from micro-enterprise in Ghana to soccer teams in the Bay Area, Ebusua has created a truly global community of compassion and generosity.

Among many other important projects, the members of the Ebusua Club have dedicated themselves to anti-malaria initiatives aimed at eradicating a disease that tragically kills 3,000 children each day, the majority in sub-Saharan Africa, despite the availability of prevention and treatment options.

Additionally, the club annually participates in the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation's Race for Research to honor a member lost to this terrible disease, Chaka Impraim. To honor his memory, the Ebusua team runs every year under the name "Chaka's Champions."

And the members of this group truly are champions, Madam Speaker, as they have also worked with Rotary International to train about 100 Ghanaian farmers in agriculture, food preservation and nutrition; organized materials, equipment and medical assistance to rehabilitate street children; dispensed polio vaccines to over two million infants and children; supported literacy programs by providing much-needed books for rural schools; and developed a low cost solar oven industry to efficiently replace chopped firewood.

This month, the Ebusua Club will hold a very special event—the Jubilee Ball, which not only marks the 10th anniversary of this successful organization, but also the 50th anniversary of the independence of Ghana, the first African country south of the Sahara to gain independence from colonial rule. This event promises to be a celebration of family, community and culture, and to live up to the primary purpose of the Ebusua Club—promoting Ghanaian culture and fostering an appreciation of how small contributions can make a tremendous impact on the well-being of others. In keeping with the group's charitable character, proceeds from the Jubilee Ball will be donated to help fight malaria in Ghana.

The name "Ebusua" itself is informative of the spirit of this marvelous organization. Among the Akan people of Ghana, the extended family, or "Ebusua," is the foundation of society. The members of this San Bruno group constitute a social network, collectively responsible for the material and spiritual welfare, physical protection, and the social security of each other. They exemplify the old adage that "it takes a village," and the village this group has created is nothing short of extraordinary. It is my pleasure to recognize their accomplishments, and wish them all the best as they prepare for their 2007 Jubilee Ball.

TRIBUTE TO AAAG

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many organizations that strive to make a difference in the lives of youth.

The African American Association of Georgia, AAAG, gives the opportunity for our youth to work with positive professional athletes in an up close and personal setting. The AAAG has demonstrated a spirit of giving, service and leadership to our district. Our district, families and community have benefited from the AAAG working to build a strong foundation in the lives of our youth mentally and physically.

The AAAG has worked tirelessly to give their best to preserve integrity, mentor our children and to build our future. The AAAG is currently sponsoring the 2007 Sports Festival Track and Field Meet and I was pleased to proclaim July 21, 2007 and July 22, 2007 as African American Association of Georgia Days in the Fourth Congressional District.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. MACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a bill that is critical to improving our country's water quality and infrastructure, the Water Resources Development Act.

I am glad we're finally able to pass a WRDA conference report. For far too long, Congress has stalled on moving this critical legislation, creating a backlog of projects in the country, including many in Southwest Florida.

This legislation is vital to protecting our environment and improving water quality in Florida and the rest of the country. The bill will help to restore the Everglades and parts of coastal Louisiana affected by hurricanes. It will also assist in protecting our beaches and coastal areas from floods and storms and is vital in facilitating commerce at our Nation's waterways and ports.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will pay untold dividends in the years to come. We all agree that our children and grandchildren deserve to inherit a fiscally responsible government, but we also agree that they deserve to inherit clean water, clean air and a healthy environment.

I hope that the President won't act on his veto threat and instead will sign WRDA into law. We need this legislation to protect our environment for future generations. We can't delay in moving forward on these critical infrastructure projects.

TRIBUTE TO CONTINENTAL AIR SERVICE, INC.

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a group of Americans who should have been honored years ago for their service and sacrifice to the United States during the Vietnam war. For a period of 10 dangerous years, between 1965 and 1975, over 260 pilots and ground crew members flew over regions in Southeast Asia. They were the Continental Air Service Inc., CASI, personnel.

CASI was a subsidiary of Continental Airlines created at the request of the CIA to back up air service in Southeast Asia for another CIA airline, Air America. CASI personnel flew support missions for U.S. Agency for International Development, U.S. Operations Mission, the CIA, and other government agencies. The countries CASI covered include Laos, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, and Singapore.

CASI pilots deserve to be recognized by our Government. These pilots played a vital role during the Vietnam war delivering hard rice, food, medicine, and other supplies. Moreover, CASI pilots were sent on many secret missions to rescue American troops. Madam Speaker, I would like to point out these were not easy missions. CASI pilots flew for 10 years in the most unfavorable conditions: there were limited air traffic controllers in most regions, the unpredictable weather made flying dangerous, and their planes were constantly under enemy fire. As most of their flights were covert operations, the pilots could not even talk about their experiences with their own families.

CASI pilots flew the same missions, shared the same airstrips, and sacrificed their lives in America's war effort as did Air America pilots. In fact, CASI and Air America operated side by side for U.S. AID during the war. On June 2, 2001, the CIA honored Air America and Civil Air Transport for their part in the war effort: however, the CASI pilots and crew did not receive the same recognition. Many CASI pilots have passed away and some air crews are still missing in action in Laos.

After 32 years, the time has come to honor these individuals who sacrificed their own safety for the safety of our American soldiers and for our country.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the gallant pilots and crew members of Continental Air Service Inc.

TRIBUTE TO THE ASIAN CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, many organizations strive to bring awareness and enlightenment to our community.

The Asian Cultural Experience has been a unique showcase for different Asian cultures in the Metro Atlanta area.

The past 14 years have been and continue to be a great gift of music, dance, food, art, native crafts, and fashion of the many different Asian countries from around the world.

We have found a jewel in this annual event that touches the minds and hearts of so many. Our community has been strengthened, our lives have been touched, and our spirits uplifted.

The 2007 Asian Cultural Experience is being presented at the Atlanta Botanical Garden on July 14–15, 2007. I was pleased to proclaim July 14, 2007, and July 15, 2007, as the Asian Cultural Experience Days in the 4th Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO WALTER HART UPON EARNING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Walter Hart of Lehigh Acres, Florida upon earning the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boys Scouts of America.

Mr. Hart's honor is truly significant because he earned the rank 70 years after completing the requirements for the award. Before he could collect his award, Mr. Hart joined the Navy and served for 2 years aboard the USS *Alfred A. Cunningham* during World War II.

Mr. Hart earned 23 merit badges during his time as a Boy Scout, fulfilling requirements in the areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills. As only 5 percent of Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout, Mr. Hart's accomplishment is quite notable and worthy of distinction.

Mr. Hart's service didn't end with the Boy Scouts. He fought for our country overseas during World War II and continued to serve his community at home when he returned from the war—no doubt in part because of the skills and values he learned as a member of the Boy Scouts. Mr. Hart is part of a prestigious group of accomplished men who have served our country well.

Madam Speaker, I know the people of Southwest Florida join me in offering our heartiest congratulations to Mr. Hart upon this great honor. We're proud of him and all of his accomplishments. I wish Mr. Hart and his family all the best as he continues to serve our community as an official Eagle Scout.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act. This is a landmark measure which touches on many aspects of our national health care system. It forestalls a potentially devastating cut to physician payments through Medicare that would imperil our senior's access to their doctors. It also expands assistance to our lowest income seniors so they get the help they need to afford life-saving medication.

But most important, the bill we are debating today will extend the life changing benefit of health insurance to five million more American children. That means five million parents who won't have to bring their child to the emergency room because they're running a fever. Five million parents who can take their child to a dentist if their teeth hurt. Five million parents who can take care of their children in a way we all take for granted—that when they're sick, they can go to the doctor.

SCHIP has been an incredible success story, extending the benefits of health care to six million children, about 750,000 in California

alone. These are children whose families have incomes that are too high to qualify for Medicaid, but who do not receive health insurance through their employment and can't afford it on their own. SCHIP is based on a simple premise: Insuring kids is the right thing to do. And it's much cheaper to insure a child, who is relatively healthy, than an adult or a senior citizen. The experience of the 10 years since SCHIP was originally created proves the wisdom of providing health insurance for children.

In addition to reauthorizing the program, this bill improves SCHIP by creating new incentives to seek out millions of children around the nation who are eligible but not enrolled. It includes a group of seven best practices, developed and implemented in states, that should be followed to get kids into the program and keep them there. That's the right approach. In the past, I've called for a simplified enrollment system so that families applying for a range of means-tested benefits, such as subsidized school lunches, can automatically apply for SCHIP. We accomplish that with this bill, and it will mean that more kids who are eligible will get enrolled and stay enrolled for a benefit that they are entitled.

The Committee on the Budget has certified that this legislation complies with the PAYGO rules we set earlier this year to ensure fiscal discipline. It pays for these important reforms to children's health and Medicare by an increase in the tax on cigarettes a provision that I hope will help discourage youth smoking. And it cuts back on subsidies to privately run Medicare plans. Contrary to the statements of the minority, we are not cutting one dime from Medicare. In fact, this bill today will extend the lifespan of the Medicare Trust Fund.

A vote for this bill is a vote for an America that takes care of its children. In the richest Nation in the history of the world, it is simply wrong that millions of children, our most vulnerable citizens, go without basic access to health care. With a "yes" vote, five million more children will enjoy the benefits of a healthy future and a real chance in life. I urge a "yes" vote.

TRIBUTE TO DEKALB COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, many community organizations are called to aid in sustaining a healthy lifestyle for all citizens.

Under the leadership and guidance of the Dekalb Community Service Board, thousands have been assisted with treatment and support for Mental Health, Development Disabilities and Addiction Services.

The Dekalb Community Service Board has demonstrated the will and desire to aid citizens in need since 1994 and continues today to be a beacon of light to our country.

Our beloved county and community benefit from the fruits of the labor that the Dekalb Service Board members and staff have invested.

This unique board has given of themselves tirelessly and unconditionally to preserve in-

tegrity, uplift their fellow citizens and make this a better place.

The community service board has created an Annual Walk of Heroes to allow everyone to come out in support of the work of the Service Board.

I was pleased to proclaim July 21, 2007 as Dekalb Community Service Board Foundation Day in the 4th Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO APPLEWOOD PLUMBING, HEATING, AND ELECTRIC

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric for being the recipient of the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric has adhered to high standards of business ethics for over 35 years and employs ethical behavior as a philosophy in daily business.

Owner John Ward is the principal source behind this philosophy and serves as the role model for over 40 employees. To maintain the high code of ethics at Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric the company has weekly customer service sessions that address the best way to resolve issues that may arise in addition to trainings specifically devoted to ethics. As a result of these training sessions, the company has received zero complaints from customers regarding customer service.

Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric is listed as one of the top 10 service companies in the Nation with a spotless record with the Better Business Bureau. This is due to their dedication to high ethical standards.

The Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric model for outstanding ethics in business is an example for all business in America to emulate. I once again congratulate Applewood Plumbing, Heating, and Electric for their receipt of this award and encourage them to keep doing "the right thing."

CONDEMNING THE ATTACK ON THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA, IN JULY 1994

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 30, 2007

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, a terrorist bomb destroyed the headquarters of the Argentine Jewish Mutual Association, known by its Spanish acronym, AMIA, killing 85 people and wounding 200. To this day, the attack on the AMIA remains the deadliest anti-Semitic incident since World War II, and as of yet, the perpetrators of this act have not been brought to justice.

I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 188, which not only condemns this heinous attack, but also applauds the Government of Argentina for speeding the pace of this investigation and calls on other responsible nations to support Argentina in its efforts to finally bring this case to a close.

Substantial evidence attributes the attack on July 18, 1994, to the terrorist group Hezbollah, based in Lebanon and sponsored by Iran. Evidence indicates that the tri-border region where Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil meet was used to channel resources for the purpose of carrying out the AMIA attack by terrorists linked with Iran. Regrettably, the scheming of international terrorist organizations, such as Hezbollah and al-Qaeda, are not confined to the tri-border region. In fact, much of the Western Hemisphere is ideal for international terrorist groups to establish bases due to the ill equipped and poorly trained security agencies across the region.

Almost daily, we hear reports of terrorist threats from organizations including Hezbollah and al-Qaeda. It is more important than ever to vigorously pursue and prosecute these criminals at every given opportunity. Unfortunately, while the AMIA case has been officially under investigation for over 13 years, the responsible parties have not yet been apprehended. Massive judicial and investigative irregularities, destruction of evidence, and cover-ups have already distorted the long-delayed trial. Make no mistake about it, failure to duly punish the culprits of the AMIA attack serves to reward terrorists and help spread terrorism.

I strongly applaud the recent efforts by the Government of Argentina to fulfill its international obligations and its promise to the Argentine people by aggressively pursuing the local and international connections to this act of terrorism, wherever they may lead, and to properly punish all those who are involved. However, if the last few years have taught us anything, it is that no nation can effectively combat terrorism on its own. While it is up to the Argentine government to conduct a thorough investigation, it is also the responsibility of the international community to cooperate fully in this effort.

Argentina owes it to itself, its people, and the human family to conduct an intense, fearless, and comprehensive investigation that will lead to the identification and prosecution of the principal criminals. We in the international community owe it to Argentina to cooperate with its efforts to bring this dark chapter of its history to a close.

H. Con. Res. 188 is not only a much needed reminder of this tragic event, but it is also a reminder of the truly international scope of the war on terror.

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP EDDIE L. LONG

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, there are many individuals who are called to contribute to the needs of our community through leadership and service.

Bishop Eddie L. Long has given of himself since August of 1987 to lead New Birth Missionary Baptist Church.

Bishop Eddie L. Long, under the guidance of God has pioneered and sustained New Birth Missionary Baptist Church as an instrument in our community that betters the spiritual, physical and mental welfare of our citizens.

This remarkable and tenacious man of God has shared his time and talents for the betterment of our community for the past 20 years by preaching the gospel and living the gospel.

Bishop Eddie L. Long is a spiritual warrior, a man of compassion, a man of great courage, a fearless leader and a servant to all, but most of all a visionary who has shared with not only New Birth Missionary Baptist Church, but with Dekalb County and the world his passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am pleased to proclaim August 17, 2007 as Bishop Eddie L. Long Day in the Fourth Congressional District.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF GENOA NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Genoa National Fish Hatchery for 75 years of dedicated aquatic resource conservation.

Established in 1932 through the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Act, Genoa National Fish Hatchery is one of 69 Federal hatcheries managed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. The location was selected because of its proximity to the Mississippi River and its reliable source of broodfish and artesian well water, both of which are used to raise fish and fill ponds. Hatchery construction was completed in 1939 by Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression.

To support ongoing fish management and restoration programs, Genoa provides millions of eggs, fry, and fingerlings to State fishery stations, Federal hatcheries, National Wildlife refuges, Department of Army installations, and seven Native American Tribes.

Genoa's location and its ability to create different rearing environments and water temperatures makes it one of the most diverse hatcheries in the Nation. Nineteen ponds ranging in size from one-tenth of one acre to thirty-three acres, six raceways, and seven intensive rearing buildings make it capable of collecting, culturing, and rearing cold, cool, and warm water fish species. Genoa raises, holds, and rears more species of fish and freshwater mussels than almost any other Federal fish hatchery in the Nation.

Genoa's mission has changed and evolved over the years. Initially, its purpose was to raise bass and panfish for area waters. In the 1950s, it evolved to sportfish restoration, predominantly northern pike and walleye. As science developed and needs for fishery conservation in the country changed, so did the hatchery's mission. In the 1990s, the value of hatcheries as important tools for recovering and restoring threatened and endangered fish and aquatic species was recognized. Genoa expanded its traditional missions to include recovering and restoring endangered mussels, lake sturgeon and coaster brook trout. Today, eggs, and fry are still provided to State conservation agencies to assist them in their fishery management programs.

On multiple occasions, I toured this amazing facility and witnessed the ongoing and award-

winning research performed by its hard-working, dedicated staff. Two staff members have received awards this year through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Doug Aloisi received the Project Leader of the Year Award for his leadership on imperiled native mussels and lake sturgeon and his strong outreach efforts. Roger Gordon received the National Recovery Champion Award for being the driving force behind mussel conservation. I am proud to have the hatchery in Wisconsin's Third Congressional District.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE CREW'S NEST ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. GILLMOR. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct pleasure to pay tribute to a special facility in the great State of Ohio. This year, The Crew's Nest in Put-in-Bay, Ohio celebrates thirty-five years of dedicated service.

Madam Speaker, the Crew's Nest in Put-in-Bay, Ohio, is one of the finest destinations on the Great Lakes. Located in Put-in-Bay, Ohio, on South Bass Island, the Crews Nest is part of the rich and historic past of Lake Erie.

Dating back to the War of 1812, Put-in-Bay and South Bass Island served our great Nation as the key base of operations for Commodore Oliver H. Perry. Through this port-of-call, Commodore Perry was able to ensure our independence and our place among nations. Even today, we acknowledge the heroic actions of Commodore Perry with a granite memorial that towers some 352 feet above the island.

And, it is in this very harbor, with Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial as a backdrop, that you will find one of the Great Lake's finest private boating clubs. From the time of its inception in 1968, the Crew's Nest has continued to provide vacationers with the finest accommodations on Lake Erie. Today, the Crew's Nest provides members and non-members alike with a safe and enjoyable stay on this historic island.

Madam Speaker, the real success of the Crew's Nest facility comes not only from its first class accommodations, but its employees. I have visited this facility many times with my family and can tell you first-hand what makes the Crew's Nest in Put-in-Bay, Ohio, so special are its employees. The staff's attention to service and boundless enthusiasm continue to make the Crew's Nest a required visit for guests to Put-in-Bay.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the employees and the legacy of the Crew's Nest in Put-in-Bay, Ohio. As all who benefit from this fine establishment gather to celebrate its 35th anniversary of service, I am confident that the excellent employees will continue the success of The Crew's Nest into the future.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today applaud the action of the House of Representatives in standing up for our children. H.R. 3162—Children's Health and Medical Care Protection Act of 2007 provides needed additional funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) nationally, and in my State, it will allow the continuation of the successful PeachCare program currently serving 270,000 children.

Early on, I advocated for the full reauthorization of SCHIP, at a minimum, so that childhood healthcare is not compromised. This bill accomplishes that and even expands the program. However, this particular bill also forces cuts to Medicare Part C, a program in which over 8,000 seniors in my district are enrolled.

I have heard from these seniors in person, through the mail, on the phone, and over fax about their support for this program and the difference it has made in their lives. I wish there were another option for House consideration today that would enable this program to continue in its current state. While I am supporting this legislation today to expand SCHIP, I want to assure the seniors from the 4th district that their words have not fallen on deaf ears.

I believe Congress will have an opportunity to take another look at this legislation after conferencing with the Senate, and I hope the package presented will take care of those in greatest need at both the dawn and dusk of their lives.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CAPTAIN LARRY G. WEDEKIND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, today, I wish to congratulate Assistant Solicitor Larry G. Wedekind of Lexington County's eleventh Judicial Circuit for being sworn in as a Captain in the South Carolina Army National Guard. He will be joining the Judge Advocate General Corps.

Captain Wedekind of Chapin has devoted his career to public service. After graduating from The Citadel—The Military College of South Carolina, he served 8 years in the U.S. Marine Corps as a communications officer and as a surface warfare officer in the U.S. Navy. A 1997 graduate of the University of South Carolina's School of Law, Captain Wedekind has worked as a lawyer for the Fifth and Eleventh Judicial Circuit courts as well as in the office of the Attorney General.

As a soldier and lawyer, Larry remains committed to the citizens of his country and his State of South Carolina. He is a true role-model. I applaud his tremendous sense of duty. I want to wish him and his wife, Angie, all the best in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO EMPLOYEES OF
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AD-
MINISTRATION

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the employees of the Transportation Security Administration.

When Congress created the TSA, we intended to form a security force that could quickly adapt and respond to crises in order to protect our nation's transportation system.

On August 10, 2006, TSA demonstrated that it can perform its mission admirably.

As we now know, 21 terrorists from London were conspiring to detonate liquid explosives aboard transatlantic flights bound for the United States. They wanted to create a catastrophe that could have rivaled the horror of September 11th. Though their plot was foiled, the event should serve to remind us that we must remain vigilant in the ongoing war against terror.

The TSA's response to this imminent threat helped guide our nation through that crisis. In the evening hours of August 9, 2006, TSA quickly responded. As British authorities began arresting the terrorist suspects, TSA altered its screening to ensure that the plot would be foiled.

Within four hours—before the first flight took off on August 10th—TSA implemented new security procedures, trained and deployed more than 43,000 Transportation Security Officers to execute these new procedures, and deployed Federal Air Marshals to multiple locations overseas. The dedication that the employees of TSA demonstrated in response to this terrorist plot should not be forgotten.

Notably, the work attendance for Transportation Security Officers on August 10th was an all-time high in the history of TSA. As one Federal Security Director recalled, "All our security officers came in; every single one of them. Anytime something happens . . . you have to fight them off. Mission is never our problem."

On this anniversary of that failed attempt of terror, I want to thank the employees of the Transportation Security Administration. We owe them great gratitude.

RECOGNIZING PROVIDENCE HOOD
RIVER MEMORIAL HOSPITAL'S 75
YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring the honor associated with the United States House of Representatives to Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital. On August 4, 2007, the hospital, located at 13th and May Streets in my hometown of Hood River, Oregon, will officially celebrate 75 years of service. I was fortunate enough to serve on the hospital's Board of Directors for five years and that experience provided me the opportunity to see firsthand the dedication and commitment of the staff and administration to the health of the entire community.

At the turn of the 20th century, 622 people inhabited Hood River. The advent of the railroad transformed this once isolated community into a hub for some of the nation's finest timber and fruit producers. Within five years, the population tripled. Today, 20,500 people call Hood River County home and timber and fruit produces remain a significant element of the region's fabric but so do windsurfers, skiers and hikers.

In 1905, local physicians came together to open Cottage Hospital at 716 Oak Street. Hood River's first hospital served the community for 19 years, before it was declared structurally unsafe and closed by the fire marshal in 1924.

Although a disappointing loss to the community, the closure of Cottage Hospital set into motion a tremendous local commitment to health care that carries on today. The Hood River Hospital Association organized for the purpose of building a new community hospital to replace Cottage Hospital. Successful fundraising efforts netted enough money to begin construction on a new hospital in 1931. Hood River Hospital admitted 501 patients during its first year of operation in 1932.

In the late 1940s, Hood River Hospital's surgery department owned all the latest equipment: an operating table, a spotlight, basins, forceps, knives, probes, clips and clamps. However, the medical field did not yet know the convenience of disposable items. Following surgery, rubber gloves were washed, dried and powdered to sterilize them. Surgery needles were sharpened, sterilized and re-used.

As the population of Hood River grew after World War II, the patient population soon outpaced hospital capacity. The residents of Hood River swung into action again and with generous donations from community members the hospital was enlarged in 1958. In response to the abundant donations that were made in memory of those whose lives were touched by the hospital, the name of the facility was officially changed to Hood River Memorial Hospital.

A cycle was becoming clear; every two to three decades the hospital outgrew its space and an expansion was necessary to keep pace with the needs of patients and technological advancements. It happened in the late 1950s and again in the 1980s when community donations allowed for the construction of new patient care wings. In the 1990s the hospital footprint was expanded, allowing for the addition of a new family birthing center and the Ray T. Yasui Dialysis Center, the first dialysis center in the Columbia Gorge. All of these efforts were made possible by unwavering donations of time, talent and treasure from the Hood River community.

As Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital celebrates 75 years in a structure that no longer physically resembles the original hospital that opened its doors in 1932, another much-needed expansion and renovation project begins. This new phase of development will feature a new entrance and lobby. It also will allow the diagnostic imaging department to operate from one location. The short stay surgery department will be transformed to include 18 private rooms. The family birthing center will add a dedicated cesarean section operating room and other features to comfort laboring mothers.

Construction is set to begin in the fall and should be completed in about a year. At that

time, the current building will be renovated and modernized to include a 10 bed rehabilitation center which will allow patients who have experienced a stroke or heart attack to recover and rehabilitate close to home.

Milestones such as anniversaries cause us to pause and reflect on history, achievements and the individuals that contributed to the successes that have brought us to where we are today. Madam Speaker, indeed it is important for us to celebrate milestones. However, it is my hope that we will all strive to acknowledge the extraordinary care and compassion that is provided each and every day by those who staff and support community hospitals throughout the year, not just during milestone celebrations.

My colleagues, please join me in congratulating Providence Hood River Memorial Hospital for their exemplary service over the past 75 years and in wishing them very well as they break ground on the next 75 years.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MELISSA L. BEAN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, due to circumstances beyond my control, I was unable to vote on the amendment offered by Mr. SESSION to H.R. 3093 (rollcall No. 721) on Wednesday, July 25, 2007. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

INTRODUCTION OF THE
KALAUPAPA MEMORIAL ACT

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill to authorize establishment of a memorial at Kalaupapa National Historical Park on the island of Molokai, HI, to honor the memory and sacrifices of the some 8,000 Hansen's disease patients who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa peninsula between 1866 and 1969. I want to thank my friend and colleague Congressman NEIL ABERCROMBIE for cosponsoring this legislation.

The policy of exiling persons with the disease that was then known as leprosy began under the Kingdom of Hawaii and continued under the governments of the Republic of Hawaii, the Territory of Hawaii, and the State of Hawaii. Children, mothers, and fathers were forcibly separated and sent to the isolated peninsula of Kalaupapa, which for most of its history could only be accessed by water or via a steep mule trail. Children born to parents at Kalaupapa were taken away from their mothers and sent to orphanages or to other family members outside of Kalaupapa. Hawaii's isolation laws for people with Hansen's disease were not repealed until 1969, even though medications to control the disease had been available since the late 1940s.

While most of us know about the sacrifices of Father Damien, who dedicated his life to care for those exiled to Kalaupapa, fewer know of the courage and sacrifices of the patients who were torn from their families and

left to make a life in this isolated area. It is important that their lives be remembered.

Of the some 8,000 former patients buried in Kalaupapa, only some 1,300 have marked graves. A memorial listing the names of those who were exiled to Kalaupapa and died there is a fitting tribute and is consistent with the primary purpose of the park, which is "to preserve and interpret the Kalaupapa settlement for the education and inspiration of present and future generations."

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, a non-profit organization consisting of patient residents at Kalaupapa National Historical Park and their family members and friends, was established in August 2003 to promote the value and dignity of the more than 8,000 persons—some 90 percent of who were Native Hawaiian—who were forcibly relocated to the Kalaupapa peninsula. A central goal of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa is to make certain that the lives of these individuals are honored and remembered through the establishment of a memorial or memorials within the boundaries of the park at Kalawao or Kalaupapa.

Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa has made a commitment to raise the funds needed to design and build the memorial and will work with the National Park Service on design and location of the memorial.

The House Resources Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing on the 109th Congress version of this bill, H.R. 4529, on September 28, 2006. I have read the heartfelt and compelling testimony submitted by current patients and family members of former patients who want to make sure not only that the story of Kalaupapa is told but that the patients are recognized as individuals by having the names of each of those exiled to Kalaupapa and buried there recorded for posterity. Families that have visited Kalaupapa and Kalawao searching in vain for the graves of their family members will find comfort in seeing those names recorded on a memorial.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation.

INTRODUCING THE QUALITY HEALTH CARE COALITION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Quality Health Care Coalition Act, which takes a first step towards restoring a true free market in health care by restoring the rights of freedom of contract and association to health care professionals. Over the past few years, we have had much debate in Congress about the difficulties medical professionals and patients are having with Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs). HMOs are devices used by insurance industries to ration health care. While it is politically popular for members of Congress to bash the HMOs and the insurance industry, the growth of the HMOs are rooted in past government interventions in the health care market through the tax code, the Employment Retirement Security Act (ERSIA), and the federal anti-trust laws. These interventions took control of the health care dollar away from individual patients and providers, thus making it inevitable that some-

thing like the HMOs would emerge as a means to control costs.

Many of my well-meaning colleagues would deal with the problems created by the HMOs by expanding the federal government's control over the health care market. These interventions will inevitably drive up the cost of health care and further erode the ability of patients and providers to determine the best health treatments free of government and third-party interference. In contrast, the Quality Health Care Coalition Act addresses the problems associated with HMOs by restoring medical professionals' freedom to form voluntary organizations for the purpose of negotiating contracts with an HMO or an insurance company.

As an OB-GYN who spent over 30 years practicing medicine, I am well aware of how young physicians coming out of medical school feel compelled to sign contracts with HMOs that may contain clauses that compromise their professional integrity. For example, many physicians are contractually forbidden from discussing all available treatment options with their patients because the HMO gatekeeper has deemed certain treatment options too expensive. In my own practice, I tried hard not to sign contracts with any health insurance company that infringed on my ability to practice medicine in the best interests of my patients and I always counseled my professional colleagues to do the same. Unfortunately, because of the dominance of the HMO in today's health care market, many health care professionals cannot sustain a medical practice unless they agree to conform their practice to the dictates of some HMO.

One way health care professionals could counter the power of the HMOs would be to form a voluntary association for the purpose of negotiating with an HMO or an insurance company. However, health care professionals who attempt to form such a group run the risk of persecution under federal anti-trust laws. This not only reduces the ability of health care professionals to negotiate with HMOs on a level playing field, but also constitutes an unconstitutional violation of medical professionals' freedom of contract and association.

Under the United States Constitution, the federal government has no authority to interfere with the private contracts of American citizens. Furthermore, the prohibitions on contracting contained in the Sherman antitrust laws are based on a flawed economic theory which holds that federal regulators can improve upon market outcomes by restricting the rights of certain market participants deemed too powerful by the government. In fact, anti-trust laws harm consumers by preventing the operation of the free-market, causing prices to rise, quality to suffer, and, as is certainly the case with the relationship between the HMOs and medical professionals, favoring certain industries over others.

By restoring the freedom of medical professionals to voluntarily come together to negotiate as a group with HMOs and insurance companies, this bill removes a government-imposed barrier to a true free market in health care. Of course, this bill does not infringe on the rights of health care professionals by forcing them to join a bargaining organization against their will. While Congress should protect the rights of all Americans to join organizations for the purpose of bargaining collectively, Congress also has a moral responsibility to ensure that no worker is forced by law

to join or financially support such an organization.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope that Congress will not only remove the restraints on medical professionals' freedom of contract, but will also empower patients to control their health care by passing my Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act. The Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act puts individuals back in charge of their own health care by providing Americans with large tax credits and tax deductions for their health care expenses, including a deduction for premiums for a high-deductible insurance policy purchased in combination with a Health Savings Account. Putting individuals back in charge of their own health care decisions will enable patients to work with providers to ensure they receive the best possible health care at the lowest possible price. If providers and patients have the ability to form the contractual arrangements that they find most beneficial to them, the HMO monster will wither on the vine without the imposition of new federal regulations on the insurance industry.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to support the Quality Health Care Coalition Act and restore the freedom of contract and association to America's health care professionals. I also urge my colleagues to join me in working to promote a true free market in health care by putting patients back in charge of the health care dollar by supporting my Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF THADDEUS EDGAR OWENS, SR.

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise in celebration of the life of Thaddeus Edgar Owens, Sr., a great citizen, father, and friend who recently passed away at the age of 88.

Thaddeus was born on January 7, 1919 to Alex Owens and Carrie Brown in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He enjoyed a happy childhood with his sister, Cleopatra, and a large extended family. An attentive student, he received a scholarship to attend Morehouse College in Atlanta, enrolling at the young age of sixteen. There, he played football and pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

After graduation, Thaddeus lived and worked in New York until 1941 when he was drafted into the armed forces. He achieved the rank of a sergeant and worked as a clerk in the office of the Quartermaster. In preparation for work with the French Underground, Thaddeus was chosen to participate in a secret project at Hamilton College where he studied and became fluent in French. Despite their training, Thaddeus and his fellow African American soldiers were never permitted to participate in this aspect of the war. Thaddeus confronted the injustices existing within the segregated armed forces protesting the rail-roading of a fellow soldier. His actions resulted in him being accused of mutiny and reduced in rank. Despite this incident, he was honorably discharged in 1945 after receiving the Asiatic Pacific Service, Good Conduct and World War II Victory Medals.

After the war, Thaddeus went on to obtain his law degree from Brooklyn Law School. He led an active life in local politics and community affairs for many years, serving on the Legal Redress Committee of the Brooklyn NAACP and a legal advisor in the Brooklyn Democratic Party. His legal career progressed when he won the election for Judge of the Civil Court of New York City in 1975. He became the first African American man appointed to the Supreme Court of Staten Island, and then returned to Brooklyn to serve as a fully appointed State Supreme Court Justice in 1982. Thaddeus retired in 1995.

Thaddeus loved to read and was appreciated for his intellectual brilliance. Charming and outgoing, he was known for his quick wit and playful sense of humor. Thaddeus always put the care and well-being of his family first, his wife, Emma Louise Owens, his two sons, Thaddeus Jr. and David, and his two daughters, Michele and Priscilla. On behalf of the United States Congress and the people of the 11th District of Ohio, I express my sincerest condolences to the family of Thaddeus Edgar Owens, Sr. May his legacy of compassion forever live in our hearts.

COLLEGE STUDENT CREDIT CARD PROTECTION ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the College Student Credit Card Protection Act. This bill seeks to address a growing problem among college students in the United States: devastating credit card debt.

Nellie Mae's Student Credit Card Usage Analysis in 2005 found that the outstanding balance for the average college student was \$2,169. Final year students carried an average balance of \$2,864 while freshmen carry an average balance of \$1,585. Additionally, as students progress through school, credit card usage swells. Ninety-one percent of final year students have a credit card compared to 42% of freshmen. The study also found that the average American college student is graduating with more than 4 credit cards to their name.

College freshmen are typically offered eight credit cards during their first semester. Semester after semester, students open their mail boxes to find envelopes notifying them that they are pre-approved for credit cards with a \$500 limit and no annual fee. When they check their e-mail, there are more credit card offers. When they answer the phone in their dorm room, there are even more offers.

Credit card companies pay college students generously to stand outside dining halls, dorms, and academic buildings and encourage their peers to apply for credit cards. With each completed application, the student applicant receives free gifts—from t-shirts to indoor basketball hoops—and the credit card company receives another interest-paying customer.

I have heard horror stories from my district about college students overwhelmed by credit card debt. One third-year college student had amassed a whopping \$14,000 of debt. The question that cries out for an answer is: why

are we making it so easy for our young people to amass such outrageous amounts of debt?

With interest rates climbing, fees increasing, and the number of credit card holders going up every day, credit card companies should not be allowed to expand their unfair, predatory business practices by exploiting our Nation's future. College students are often inexperienced consumers who can get sucked into unfair credit card deals or simply get in over their heads with the numerous underlying and unknown fees. Many simply sign up for a credit card without any knowledge of the interest rate, fees, and penalties that come along with their card. We must address these unfair lending practices and fees to help American college students avoid enormous financial burdens from which, as adults, they may never recover.

College graduation should be a time of excitement and new beginnings; a time when students can watch the skills they have learned in college manifest into successful careers and happy lives. But instead of seeing endless possibilities, too many students are burdened with endless debt. Studies now show that the likelihood of homeownership decreases as student debt increases. It is heart-breaking to me to think that recent graduates could jeopardize their future because we have allowed creditors to lend them sums of money they have no hope of paying back.

That is why I, along with Congressman DUNCAN, my friend from Tennessee, have re-introduced the College Student Credit Card Protection Act. The bill will take important steps toward reducing credit card debts to college students by requiring credit card companies to determine whether a student applicant has the financial means to pay off a credit card balance before they are approved. It would restrict the credit limit to minimum balances if the student has no independent income, and require parental approval for credit limit increases in the event that a parent cosigns the account.

It is time for credit card companies to be responsible lenders. For the sake of our college students and their futures, it is critical that we pass legislation that prevents credit card companies from plunging young men and women into debt.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to address this critical issue facing college students nation-wide, and I urge the House to consider and pass this bill quickly.

INTRODUCTION OF TREAT PHYSICIANS FAIRLY ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Treat Physicians Fairly Act, legislation providing tax credits to physicians to compensate for the costs of providing uncompensated care. This legislation helps compensate medical professionals for the costs imposed on them by Federal laws forcing doctors to provide uncompensated medical care. The legislation also provides a tax deduction for hospitals that incur costs related to providing uncompensated care.

Under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act (EMTALA) physicians who work in emergency rooms are required to provide care, regardless of a person's ability to pay, to anyone who comes into an emergency room. Hospitals are also required by law to bear the full costs of providing free care to anyone who seeks emergency care. Thus, EMTALA forces medical professionals and hospitals to bear the entire cost of caring for the indigent. According to the June 2/9, 2003 edition of AM News, emergency physicians lose an average of \$138,000 in revenue per year because of EMTALA. EMTALA also forces physicians and hospitals to follow costly rules and regulations. Physicians can be fined \$50,000 for technical EMTALA violations.

The professional skills with which one earns a living are property. Therefore, the clear language of the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment prevents Congress from mandating that physicians and hospitals bear the entire costs of providing health care to any group.

Ironically, the perceived need to force doctors to provide medical care is itself the result of prior government interventions into the health care market. When I began practicing medicine, it was common for doctors to provide uncompensated care as a matter of charity. However, laws and regulations inflating the cost of medical services and imposing unreasonable liability standards on medical professionals even when they were acting in a volunteer capacity made offering free care cost prohibitive. At the same time, the increasing health care costs associated with the government-facilitated overreliance on third party payments priced more and more people out of the health care market. Thus, the government responded to problems created by its interventions by imposing the EMTALA mandate on physicians, in effect making health care professionals scapegoats for the harmful consequences of government health care policies.

EMTALA could actually decrease the care available for low-income Americans at emergency rooms. This is because EMTALA discourages physicians from offering any emergency care. Many physicians in my district have told me that they are considering curtailing their practices, in part because of the costs associated with the EMTALA mandates. Many other physicians are even counseling younger people against entering the medical profession because of the way the Federal Government treats medical professionals. The tax credits created in the Treat Physicians Fairly Act will help mitigate some of the burden government policies place on physicians.

The Treat Physicians Fairly Act does not remove any of EMTALA's mandates; it simply provides that physicians can receive a tax credit for the costs of providing uncompensated care. This is a small step toward restoring fairness to physicians. Furthermore, by providing some compensation in the form of tax credits, the Treat Physicians Fairly Act helps remove the disincentives to remaining active in the medical profession built into the current EMTALA law. I hope my colleagues will take the first step toward removing the unconstitutional burden of providing uncompensated care by cosponsoring the Treat Physicians Fairly Act.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 75TH
BIRTHDAY OF DR. JAMES L.
PHILLIPS

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 75th birthday of a man that had a profound impact on my life, Dr. James L. Phillips. A native of Sharon, Texas, Dr. Phillips was a skilled athlete and student and attended Washington & Jefferson College on scholarship earning a bachelor's degree in 1954. From there he went on to attend Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine.

In 1968, he became the first African American intern at the University Hospitals of Cleveland. He completed his residency in pediatrics at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. Dr. Phillips spent 2 years at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Camp Pendleton, California before joining the Ohio Permanente Medical Center in Parma, Ohio. He remained there for 16 years before going to serve as associate dean for student affairs and minority programs and associate professor of pediatrics at Case Western Reserve University. While there, he created and directed the Health Careers Enhancement Program for Minorities at Case School of Medicine from 1988 to 1993.

Currently, Dr. Phillips serves on the faculty of Baylor College of Medicine. In addition to his administrative and educational responsibilities, Dr. Phillips has served on a variety of boards including Chairman of the Harris County Hospital District's Medical Board from 1993 to 1999. He currently serves on the Board of Trustees of William & Jefferson College, Bay Ridge Christian College, MidAmerica Christian University, Intercultural Cancer Council, and the Huffington Geriatric Center for Excellence and the Hispanic Serving Health Professions Schools. Dr. Phillips has received numerous honors and awards throughout his career.

Dr. Phillips is married to Barbara Phillips, and lives in Missouri City, Texas. He is the proud father of three sons and six step-children.

I first met Dr. Phillips in the late 80s when he was teaching at Case Western Reserve University. He was a stalwart in his support and encouragement of minority students and worked diligently to provide them with opportunities. I am proud to serve on the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, a position he encouraged me to seek. Dr. Phillips has and continues to be a role model, teacher, supporter and a dear friend. Therefore, on behalf of the Congress of the United States and the people of the 11th Congressional District of Ohio, I am pleased to join with the family and friends of Dr. James L. Phillips in celebrating his 75th birthday. May you be blessed with many, many more.

IN MEMORIAL OF DR. NORMAN
ADRIAN WIGGINS

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of Dr. Norman Adrian

Wiggins, who died August 1, 2007. In his passing I lost a good friend, Campbell University lost her Chancellor, North Carolina lost one of its most outstanding citizens and a man who was instrumental in his community, county, and State.

A native of Burlington, North Carolina, Dr. Wiggins was a veteran of World War II, where he served in the United States Marine Corps. After returning from his service to our Nation, he began his educational pilgrimage and earned the Associate of Arts degree from Campbell Junior College, the Bachelor of Arts degree from Wake Forest College, the Bachelor of Laws degree from the Wake Forest College School of Law and the Master of Law and Doctor of the Science of Law from Columbia University School of Law.

On June 6, 1967, Dr. Wiggins became the 3rd president of Campbell College and immediately began piloting a new course for the institution. It would lead to the establishment of one of the most outstanding trust management programs in the Nation, an award-winning and nationally recognized Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC), and the establishment of five professional schools—the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, the Lundy Fetterman School of Business, the School of Education, the School of Pharmacy and the Divinity School. He also led in the College's move to university status in 1979. Under Dr. Wiggins' leadership, Campbell's educational programs were extended beyond the Buies Creek campus as the University was among the first private schools to offer extended education opportunities to military installations, including Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, New River Air Base and Camp Lejeune. Dr. Wiggins' most notable international venture was the creation of the partnership between Campbell University and Tunku Abdul Rahman College in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, a partnership that has lasted more than twenty-five years.

Dr. Wiggins was a devoted Christian; he served North Carolina Baptists at the State and national levels. He was one of only two Baptist college presidents to serve as president of the North Carolina Baptist State Convention. He also served as president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board and the National Fellowship of Men. In May 2003, following a thirty-six year tenure as president of Campbell University, Dr. Wiggins retired. In recognition of his exemplary service, the Board of Trustees named Dr. Wiggins Chancellor of the University. Dr. Wiggins is survived by his wife Millie Wiggins.

Madam Speaker, Dr. Wiggins had a commitment to excellence in everything he did, and he had a way of bringing out excellence in everyone around him. That commitment is evident in all aspects of Campbell University. Under Dr. Wiggins' leadership Campbell experienced unprecedented growth in facilities, dollars and quality. The number of students' lives he changed in a positive way is immeasurable. Campbell University, Harnett County and the entire State of North Carolina are better in countless ways because of the efforts of Dr. Wiggins.

INTRODUCING THE COMPREHENSIVE
HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, America faces a crisis in health care. Health care costs continue to rise, leaving many Americans unable to afford health insurance, while those with health care coverage, and their physicians, struggle under the control of managed-care "gatekeepers." Obviously, fundamental health care reform should be one of Congress' top priorities.

Unfortunately, most health care "reform" proposals either make marginal changes or exacerbate the problem. This is because they fail to address the root of the problem with health care, which is that government policies encourage excessive reliance on third-party payers. The excessive reliance on third-party payers removes all incentive from individual patients to concern themselves with health care costs. Laws and policies promoting Health Maintenance Organizations (HMOs) resulted from a desperate attempt to control spiraling costs. However, instead of promoting an efficient health care system, HMOs further took control over health care away from the individual patient and physician.

Furthermore, the predominance of third-party payers means there is effectively no market for individual health insurance policies, thus those whose employers cannot offer them health benefits must either pay exorbitant fees for health insurance or do without health insurance. Since most health care providers cater to those with health insurance, it is very difficult for the uninsured to find health care that meets their needs at an affordable price. The result is many of the uninsured turn to government-funded health care systems, or use their local emergency room as their primary care physician. The result of this is declining health for the uninsured and increased burden on taxpayer-financed health care system.

Returning control over health care to the individual is the key to true health care reform. The Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act puts control of health care back into the hands of the individual through tax credits, tax deductions, Health Care Savings Accounts (HSA), and Flexible Savings Accounts. By giving individuals tax incentives to purchase their own health care, the Comprehensive Health Care Act will help more Americans obtain quality health insurance and health care. Specifically, the Comprehensive Health Care Act:

A. Provides all Americans with a tax credit for 100 percent of health care expenses. The tax credit is fully refundable against both income and payroll taxes.

B. Allows individuals to roll over unused amounts in cafeteria plans and Flexible Savings Accounts (FSA).

C. Makes every American eligible for a Health Savings Account (HSA), removes the requirement that individuals must obtain a high-deductible insurance policy to open an HSA; allows individuals to use their HSA to make premium payments for high-deductible policy; and allows senior citizens to use their HSA to purchase Medigap policies.

D. Repeals the 7.5 percent threshold for the deduction of medical expenses, thus making all medical expenses tax deductible.

By providing a wide range of options, this bill allows individual Americans to choose the method of financing health care that best suits their individual needs. Increasing frustration with the current health care system is leading more and more Americans to embrace this approach to health care reform. For example, a poll by the respected Zogby firm showed that over 80 percent of Americans support providing all Americans with access to a Health Savings Account. I hope all my colleagues will join this effort to put individuals back in control of health care by cosponsoring the Comprehensive Health Care Reform Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY J. WALZ

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, earlier today, I missed rollcall vote 795, a motion to recommit on H.R. 3159, the Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007.

I was detained while meeting with the Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Rep. JIM OBERSTAR of Minnesota, to discuss the situation in Minneapolis following the collapse of the I-35W Bridge over the Mississippi River.

Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote 795 because it was a procedural tactic to prevent consideration of the underlying bill.

As a veteran of the Minnesota National Guard myself, I strongly support the aims of H.R. 3159, which would ensure that returning servicemembers receive sufficient time to readjust from their deployments before being called up again.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1, IMPLEMENTING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 9/11 COMMISSION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 27, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker while I commend the work on H.R. 1, I rise today to express my disappointment that the provision to afford our Transportation Security Officers (TSOs) the collective bargaining rights and whistleblower protections they deserve is excluded from the Conference Report. Mr. Speaker, our TSOs are not second class citizens and should not be treated as such.

In 2001, when the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) was created, Congress vested power to set TSO compensation, leave, and other basic employment rights with the Secretary of Transportation. When TSA was moved to the Department of Homeland Security, this authority remained. While this

authority was helpful in getting TSA up and running, the TSOs now need to be treated like all other TSA employees—fairly and equitably. This provision would have restored the labor rights of approximately 43,000 TSOs and provide them with veterans' preference, anti-discrimination protections, retirement, whistleblowing, and collective-bargaining rights.

Restoring basic employment rights is critical to recruiting and retaining TSOs. We do not need to look far to see what low morale can do to the health, recruitment, and retention of the Department of Homeland Security workforce. According to a GAO report released this month, TSOs account for approximately a third of the total workforce and their attrition rates are higher than normal for the federal government. It is unfortunate that we are failing to provide the most basic labor protections to our front line workers who perform an important job and work to keep us all safe; rights that are afforded to thousands of workers in the federal government.

I commit to my colleagues today that as Chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security I will continue to work to ensure that our TSOs are afforded the rights and protections they deserve.

Additionally, the following individuals did a service to our nation in helping the Conference develop legislation to make America more secure: Michael Stroud, Denise Krepp, Véronique Pluviose-Fenton, Alison Rosso, Jacob Olcott, Chris Beck, Matt Washington, Jeff Greene, Erin Murphy, Michael Beland, Erin Daste, Tamla Scott, Tyrik McKeiver, Stephan Viña, Diane Bean, Brian Turbyfill, and Angela Rye.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge that a lot of staff work went into getting us here today, and I would like to especially thank: My staff director, Jessica Herrera-Flanigan; and my chief counsel, Rosaline Cohen, as well as her predecessor, Todd Gee.

I don't mean to brag but I believe I have the best and most diverse professional staff on the Hill. A few of them are here with me on the floor. I also would like to acknowledge: the Committee's very able clerk, Michael Twinchek; Ranking Member KING's staff—most especially Rob O'Connor and Michael Power; the folks at Legislative Counsel that brought it all together—Hank Savage and Hadley Ross; Mike Sheehy and Jerry Hartz with the Speaker's office; and Rob Cogorno and Mariah Sixkiller with the Leader.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF CORPORAL ANGELO VACCARO

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, today as I entered the grounds of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and approached the Warrior Transition Brigade Headquarters, I saw the name "Vaccaro Hall." This morning the United States Army dedicated Vaccaro Hall in honor of my constituent, Corporal Angelo J. Vaccaro, from Deltona who lost his life performing heroic actions in Afghanistan. It was my honor to personally congratulate Corporal Vaccaro's wife, mother and father on the well deserved

recognition of Corporal Angelo Vaccaro's heroic actions.

The late Corporal Vaccaro, his wife and parents have been part of the Seventh Congressional District in Central Florida. His distinguished service to our country as a medic in the United States Army earned Corporal Vaccaro the honor of being the first member of the Armed Services to receive two Silver Star medals during the Global War on Terror.

Corporal Vaccaro was the loving husband of Dana and the youngest son of Nelson and Linda Vaccaro. He led by example and never boasted of his accomplishments and efforts on the battlefield.

Born in New York, Corporal Vaccaro moved to Deltona, FL where he lived until he joined the Army on March 14, 2004. According to family and friends, Corporal Vaccaro had found his place in life as a medic with the Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Corporal Vaccaro's honorable service to our nation included a deployment to Afghanistan. He conducted more than 140 patrols and heroically risked his life in order to save the lives of fallen comrades. On one such occasion, Vaccaro's platoon came under heavy enemy fire and Vaccaro and four others suffered significant injuries. Ignoring his wounds and still battling Taliban forces, Corporal Vaccaro used his own body to shield fellow soldiers from the enemy while he dragged the wounded to safety and began emergency medical treatment. Corporal Vaccaro's actions during this battle earned him his first Silver Star.

Corporal Vaccaro's second Silver Star was a result of his final heroic actions that saved two of his injured comrades in need of immediate evacuation from the battlefield. While serving as the senior line medic at the Koregal Outpost in Afghanistan, Corporal Vaccaro learned that members of his platoon had come under attack by Taliban forces and that two of them required immediate medical attention. Despite being informed that an ambush was in place for any attempted rescue efforts, Corporal Vaccaro volunteered for the mission without hesitation. Soon after reaching the battle site and while assisting in the successful evacuation of all the wounded, Corporal Vaccaro was struck and killed by a rocket propelled grenade. The country lost a true American hero.

In addition to the Army naming the building that houses Walter Reed's Warrior Transition Brigade Headquarters to Vaccaro Hall and the two Silver Star medals, Corporal Vaccaro earned two Purple Hearts and the Army's Bronze Star for his actions during battle. In June the Army named Fort Drum's new state-of-art medical training facility that was opened on the day that Vaccaro was killed in battle, the Bridgewater-Vaccaro Medical Training Simulator Center.

Madam Speaker, with the passing of Corporal Angelo Vaccaro, America has lost a hero, an outstanding citizen and a shining example of service to our nation. He will be remembered as a patriotic American, a loving husband, beloved son and a friend to numerous others. It was a pleasure to have attended the dedication of Vaccaro Hall at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, and I am proud that those visiting Walter Reed will be reminded of Corporal Vaccaro's heroic sacrifice on behalf of his fellow Americans.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FREEDOM FROM UNNECESSARY LITIGATION ACT

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act. As its title suggests, this bill provides an effective means of ensuring that those harmed during medical treatment receive fair compensation while reducing the burden of costly malpractice litigation on the health care system. This bill achieves its goal by providing a tax credit for negative outcomes insurance purchased before medical treatment. The insurance will provide compensation for any negative outcomes of the medical treatment. Patients can receive this insurance without having to go through lengthy litigation and without having to give away a large portion of their award to a trial lawyer.

Relying on negative outcomes insurance instead of litigation will also reduce the costs imposed on physicians, other health care providers, and hospitals by malpractice litigation. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act also promotes effective solutions to the malpractice crisis by making malpractice awards obtained through binding, voluntary arbitration tax-free.

The malpractice crisis has contributed to the closing of a maternity ward in Philadelphia and a trauma center in Nevada. Meanwhile, earlier this year, surgeons in West Virginia walked off the job to protest increasing liability rates. These are a few of the examples of how access to quality health care is jeopardized by the epidemic of large (and medically questionable) malpractice awards, and the resulting increase in insurance rates.

As is typical of Washington, most of the proposed solutions to the malpractice problem involve unconstitutional usurpations of areas best left to the States. These solutions also ignore the root cause of the litigation crisis: the shift away from treating the doctor-patient relationship as a contractual one to viewing it as one governed by regulations imposed by insurance company functionaries, politicians, government bureaucrats, and trial lawyers. There is no reason why questions of the assessment of liability and compensation cannot be determined by a private contractual agreement between physicians and patients. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act is designed to take a step toward resolving these problems through private contracts.

Using insurance, private contracts, and binding arbitration to resolve medical disputes benefits patients, who receive full compensation in a timelier manner than under the current system. It also benefits physicians and hospitals, which are relieved of the costs associated with litigation. Since it will not cost as much to provide full compensation to an injured patient, these bills should result in a reduction of malpractice premiums. The Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act benefits everybody except those trial lawyers who profit from the current system. I hope all my colleagues will help end the malpractice crises while ensuring those harmed by medical injuries receive just compensation by cosponsoring my Freedom from Unnecessary Litigation Act.

SUPPORT FOR JUAN AND ALEX GOMEZ

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN-SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of Juan and Alex Gomez, two brave and talented young men in Miami who are struggling to remain in the United States and contribute to the only country they have ever really known as their homeland.

Juan and Alex Gomez came to the United States from Colombia when they were just toddlers. Throughout their lives they worked hard in school and played by the rules.

A model student, Juan is now 18 years old and he recently graduated at the top of his class from Miami Killian High School. Juan earned high scores on 15 Advanced Placement exams and a nearly perfect score on the SAT.

Just a few days ago, Juan was looking forward to beginning college at Miami Dade College's Honors College. But sadly, today Juan and his family are at risk of deportation.

Juan's friends and classmates learned of his imminent deportation and decided to take matters into their own hands. Twelve teenage friends quickly organized a trip to Washington to enlist the support of Members of Congress. Madam Speaker, yesterday I met with Juan's classmates.

The passion and determination with which these students advocated on behalf of their friend is nothing short of inspirational. Working with immigration lawyers, members of the press, and Congressional offices, Juan's friends are advocating for a fair immigration policy while emphasizing the benefits Juan and Alex bring to the United States and vice versa.

I commend these young people for their true leadership and true public service; they are an inspiration for their entire generation. Because of their outreach to Members of Congress from Florida on both sides of the aisle, and the support of several others, we learned yesterday that the Gomez boys have received a 45-day temporary stay of deportation.

I thank and commend my colleagues who have diligently worked to intervene on behalf of Juan and Alex.

Senator BILL NELSON, Congressman LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART, Congresswoman ZOE LOFGREN, Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, and Congressman MARIO DIAZ-BALART have worked in a bipartisan fashion to bring justice to the teenagers.

Throughout the next month, we must continue to work with immigration officials to make sure that Juan and Alex can remain in the United States.

This case brings increased attention to the need for Congress to pass legislation like the DREAM Act, which would allow students like Juan and Alex, who have grown up in the United States and are pursuing higher education or military service, the opportunity to realize the American dream.

In this increasingly competitive market, the United States must not forfeit the talent that students like Juan and Alex can contribute to our Nation.

Additionally, one has to question what is going on in our system, when rather than fo-

cusing their limited resources on criminals who are here illegally, our immigration officials are going after academic all-stars like Juan Gomez.

Madam Speaker, I would like to close with Juan's own words describing the motivation that has kept him and Alex optimistic despite all odds.

Juan wrote, "Our whole family has worked hard in order to better ourselves in the country we call home. Academically, we have both strived and succeeded with hopes that our accomplishments would outshine our immigration status. All of our hard work will hopefully allow us to continue living and contributing to this wonderful country."

I call on my colleagues to learn more about this case and to work to enact legislation that will allow talented students like Juan and Alex, who have benefited from our Nation's public education system, to continue to contribute to the country that has given them hope.

VIRGINIA NEEDS AMERICA'S HELP

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the State of Virginia has had it with illegals feeding off of their State and want them sent back to their homeland.

So, Virginia is asking the Federal Government for help. Seeking funds and training available for States under the 287(g) program. This Federal program trains local and State law enforcement in immigration laws. Virginia aims to train every staffer at jails across the State on how to check immigration statuses and deport illegals.

But when the State asked the Federal Government for help, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, said no. The reason: ICE says it lacks resources, including funding and personnel, to make that commitment to Virginia.

Currently, there are 22 State and local agencies that have entered into agreements with ICE to be trained on the 287(g) programs; 65 more are waiting for approval. But because the Federal Government is not providing ICE with the necessary funds, law enforcement won't get trained and illegals won't get deported.

Maybe some of the pork earmarks going to study the lifecycles of fish should be used in this immigration battle.

Madam Speaker, this is absurd. Once again, illegals are getting a free pass to the U.S. due to the ineptitude of the Federal Government and its inability to cooperate with local cities that want to help stem the flow of illegals into our homeland.

Madam Speaker, this ought not to be.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING MANUELITA GUAJARDO JUAREZ 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. I rise today to honor Mrs. Manuelita Guajardo Juarez on her reaching

her 100th birthday. She is an inspiring member of the community in Laredo, TX.

Mrs. Manuelita Guajardo Juarez was born on July 30, 1907 in Laredo, TX. She is the third child to Manuel Guajardo and Rafaelita Esparza Guajardo. Her siblings were Abelino, Adela, Jose, Alberto, Guadalupe, Eljia, and Tomasita. As a child, she attended the El Profesor Dominguez School. Her father worked for the Tex-Mex Railroad Company and moved his family to a Tex-Mex substation named "El Pescador" where she attended school for several years.

In 1918, at the tender age of 11, she lost her mother to the influenza epidemic that hit Laredo in late 1918. Her father then moved his family to a ranch in Devine, TX, to live with his brother, Guadalupe Guajardo and his family. Manuelita's father lived at the ranch until he passed away in 1924 and is buried in Big Foot, TX.

Manuelita stayed in Devine until she married Victorino Juarez on May 14, 1930 at San Jose Catholic Church in Devine. She returned to Laredo as a young bride and lived with her in-laws in a home located several blocks from San Agustin Cathedral. Manuelita and Victorino Juarez are the parents of three daughters: Maria Minerva Juarez Ramirez from San Antonio, TX, Rosa Alicia Juarez Sciaraffa, and Amelia Juarez Magallanes, who reside in Laredo, TX. Manuelita still lives at 803 O'Kane Street in a home her late husband bought in 1937.

Every morning up to the age of 99, she watered her plants that surround her home. Because she can no longer do this, her daughters now attend to her garden. Gardening and sewing have always been her two favorite hobbies. Manuelita has 15 grandchildren who live throughout Texas, 19 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. She is the proud matriarch of five generations in her family.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication of Mrs. Manuelita Guajardo Juarez to her community, and ask you to join me in honoring her on her birthday.

CANCER SCREENING COVERAGE ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing, along with Representative DEBORAH PRYCE (R-OH) and Representative ROBERT BRADY (D-PA), the Cancer Screening Coverage Act, a bill that will ensure that a greater number of Americans are covered for breast, cervical, prostate, and colorectal cancer screening. This legislation will increase the access to cancer screening exams for patients of private insurance and the Federal Employees Health Benefits plan.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death among Americans. According to the American Cancer Society, more than 1,500 Americans die of cancer every day. Cancer screening allows for the detection of cancer in its earliest form, when the cost of treatment is the least.

Many advances have been made, but the key to survival is early detection. It is esti-

mated that the rate of survival would increase from 80 percent to 95 percent if all Americans participated in regular cancer screening. By providing increased access to screening procedures, the Cancer Screening Coverage Act would help save the lives of many Americans from this deadly disease.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue for celebrating their 65th anniversary serving the Las Vegas community.

The Las Vegas Fire & Rescue got its start in 1906 as the Las Vegas Volunteer Fire Department located in downtown Las Vegas on Fremont Street. Through the 1920s, the Las Vegas Volunteer Fire Department was the only department in southern Nevada to serve the construction of the Hoover Dam and the newly constructed army base, now known as Nellis Air Force Base. In 1942, volunteer firefighters petitioned at City Hall to create a full-time fire department. On August 1, 1942, the first 16 full-time employees of the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue began their shift.

Today, the department has 16 stations across the Las Vegas valley and oversees more than 650 employees. Las Vegas Fire & Rescue is one of eight departments in the country to be accredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International and to hold a Class One rating from the Insurance Services Offices, Inc., making it one of the safest departments in the country.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Las Vegas Fire & Rescue and the men and women who make up the department. To risk their own lives on a daily basis for the safety of others is truly commendable. I applaud Las Vegas Fire & Rescue for its leadership and wish the department continued success for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MS. VIRGINIA GUFFEY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and sincerity that I wish to honor Ms. Virginia Guffey, who on August 12, 2007, will be honored at the U.S. Steel Yard by the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Old-Timers Club for her 58 years of service at U.S. Steel.

Virginia Guffey was born in the town of Seymour, Indiana. Until 1949, she worked at the National Veneer and Lumber Company in Seymour. At that time, she was told that her services were no longer needed. Not to be discouraged, Virginia traveled north to seek one of the many employment opportunities in Gary, IN. That same year she was hired at U.S. Steel, and as they say, the rest is history. In the beginning she lived with relatives in order to send her earnings back home to Sey-

mour to support her parents and siblings. Virginia eventually settled in Merrillville, IN.

It is important to understand that Virginia was one of only 300 women working in a workplace dominated by males at U.S. Steel. The small group of 300 women is epitomized by Virginia, who demonstrated strength of character and devotion to her career, and over time she persevered to gain acceptance and make great strides to ensure women's equality in the workplace. Fifty-eight years later, her loyalty to U.S. Steel and passion for her job still burns strong. Virginia is now an inventory clerk in the tin division's coating-packaging warehouse. At 82 years old, she does not intend to retire any time soon.

Virginia has overcome a life of hardships and discrimination with courage and determination. She is a dedicated employee who loves her work and who greets each workday with enthusiasm. Her optimism and tenacity are an example to us all. Her strong work ethic and positive attitude have earned her the respect and admiration of not only her coworkers, but of every person who has the pleasure of knowing her.

One such person is Chester Lobodzinski, founder of the Youngstown Sheet and Tube Old-Timers Club, an organization for retired and current employees in the steel industry. Mr. Lobodzinski accurately painted a portrait of Virginia when he stated, "Virginia's work ethic of pride, dedication, concern, and 150 percent effort takes a back seat to no one. She is not just an employee at U.S. Steel, but is a living legend whose survival in life can be credited to her very positive attitude, combined with her many true class of friendships."

Madam Speaker, at this time I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Ms. Virginia Guffey as she is honored for her longevity and unmatched commitment to her job. Her unselfish and lifelong dedication to U.S. Steel is worthy of the highest commendation, and I am proud to represent her in Congress.

IN HONOR OF THE SERVICE OF AMERICA'S UNSUNG HERO, THOMAS A. O'ROURKE

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on June 26, 2007, the world lost one of America's unsung heroes when Thomas A. O'Rourke, originally of Ramsey, New Jersey, succumbed to a bone marrow disease known as Myelodysplastic syndrome.

At the height of the Vietnam war, Tom O'Rourke sought out service to his nation, as both his mother and father had done before him. During college, Tom attended United States Marine Corps Officer Candidate School. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant and sent to flight school in Pensacola, Florida, where he earned his "Wings of Gold." As a naval aviator, he headed off to Vietnam to fly AH-1G Cobra helicopters.

Tom retired as a captain and went to work for Bell Helicopter International as a test pilot and then as manager for their Maintenance Test Flight Division in Iran. In the true spirit of lifelong allegiance to the values of the Corps

and to his comrades still serving and yet to serve, he ensured the safety and effectiveness of their aviation equipment from his new place in the private sector. Tom later worked as the contracting administrator for the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) and then in a number of capacities for the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe in Washington State, protecting the natural resources of those lush lands.

Tom also found time to pursue personal interests, like scuba diving, travel, and softball—both as player and as coach. He spent a wonderful life with his wife of 28 years, Lohna; his son Kevin Thomas O'Rourke and his wife Casey; and his beautiful granddaughter, Mallie. Tom's son not only carries on his father's name, but also the proud family tradition of service as a pilot in the United States Marine Corps.

Tom O'Rourke's place in this world is not easily filled; he touched so many lives with such sincerity of spirit. But his courage and determination and sense of fellowship live on with his family and friends. And, I join them in celebrating this heroic life.

A TRIBUTE TO LISA SHOMAN ON
HER APPOINTMENT TO FOREIGN
MINISTER OF BELIZE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an opinion editorial published in the New York *CaribNews* newspaper the week ending July 17, 2007 titled "Ambassador Lisa Shoman: Belize's First Female Foreign Minister," and honor the contributions of Ambassador Shoman to Belize and the rest of Central America and the Caribbean.

Ambassador Shoman has been a trailblazer and a pioneer in many different areas. She has often taken the path less traveled, excelled in her chosen field and created opportunities and hope for women in her country. Known to be a vocal advocate of women's issues, she used to conduct free legal clinics for women and has helped draft domestic violence, sexual offenses and sexual harassment legislation for Belize.

In 2000, Ambassador Shoman was selected as the first woman to serve as Belize's ambassador to the United States, permanent representative to the OAS and high commissioner to Canada. She proudly represents a country that is a model of racial tolerance and cultural harmony and a beacon of multicultural plurality and while ambassador worked tirelessly to train the people of her nation and educate policy makers about its many virtues.

In June 2007, she led the Caribbean ambassadors in a working group with congressional staff to identify and prepare a substantive agenda for the CARICOM Presidents and Prime Minister Summit in Washington, DC, that addressed the core issues in the U.S. and CARICOM bilateral relations. Ambassador Shoman was instrumental in putting this summit together. She clearly articulated the goals of these meetings and insisted that tangible results should be accomplished. She deserves a great share of the credit for a summit re-

garded by everyone as a great success in achieving a new enhanced framework for consultation and cooperation between the governments of the United States and the CARICOM nations.

Since the Summit, the U.S. Secretary of Education is scheduled to travel to the region to provide assistance in expanding tertiary education programs in the CARICOM nations. The Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in response to the concerns expressed by the leaders of CARICOM, held a hearing on that examined the effects criminal deportees are having on Caribbean nations. The administration and senior members of the Committee on Ways and Means have committed to a renewal of the Caribbean Basin Initiative to guarantee special access to the U.S. market for exports from the Caribbean.

Ambassador Shoman has been a powerful and effective advocate for the interests of the people in the Caribbean and Latin America. I look forward to continue to work with her in her new capacity as foreign minister of the great country of Belize.

[From the *CaribNews*, July 17, 2007]

AMBASSADOR LISA SHOMAN BELIZE'S FIRST
FEMALE FOREIGN MINISTER

(By Tony Best)

BELMOPAN.—Lisa Shoman was sworn in as Belize's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, recently at a quiet ceremony at the residence of Governor General Sir Colville Young.

The first female Foreign Minister, in her characteristic style, insisted on having her grandmother at her side to hold the bible while she took her oath of office.

According to her father, Yasin Shoman, her mother, Hilda Hoy Shoman could not stop the young Lisa from heading out on to the then rough campaign trail in the Cayo district. From the outset, Lisa proved to a shrewd observer with a knack for dealing with difficult people and talking to even the most hostile with a natural ease. She also proved to be one of the best polling agents and counters that an unbiased campaign manager could want. She has never missed a campaign since, serving in Cayo, Freetown, Caribbean Shores, San Pedro and Port Loyola, and on the PUP's National Campaign Committee.

According to Lisa Shoman's family, they always knew she would study law, a natural for this feisty advocate, and she remained fiercely focused on her path, winning scholarship after scholarship; from high school to sixth form to university and doing exceptionally well at CXC's, O and A levels.

At 24, Shoman returned to her beloved Belize fresh from law school and went to work at the DPP's office. After her return from doing a Masters Program in Barbados at UWI, Shoman returned to private practice at Young's Law Firm and during the five years she was there, also devoted time to community service, giving talks and lectures to a variety of groups, and serving as the first female president of the Belize Bar Association.

She is perhaps best known as a vocal advocate of women's issues, appearing on radio and television programs, conducting free legal clinics for women, working with Women Against Violence (WAV), and helping to draft Domestic Violence, Sexual Offences and Sexual Harassment Legislation. During those years, Shoman worked on children's issues, and served as legal advisor to the Toledo Maya Cultural Council on land rights issues. She also lectured Constitutional and

Administrative Law for UWI's Challenge program and the UB Paralegal program.

After the 1998 election, Shoman was chosen by the PUP Administration to be the Government of Belize's representative to the Board of Directors of Belize Telecommunications Limited, and was duly elected as Chairman, serving for an eventful two year term, while on her own in private practice, and then going into partnership with Michel Chebat.

In July 2000, Prime Minister Musa tapped Shoman to serve as Belize's Ambassador to the United States, as well as Permanent Representative to the OAS, and High Commissioner to Canada, the first woman to be so honored. She has now served for almost seven years, under four Belizean Foreign Ministers and is currently the deputy dean of Ambassadors at the OAS.

Shoman has been a member of the Belize-Guatemala negotiating team since her arrival in DC and has been a part of virtually all negotiating meetings under the auspices of the OAS. In a difficult and delicate phase in 2004, she was sent by PM Musa as his Special Envoy to Guatemala for two months, just prior to the publication of the historic Facilitators Report.

She has served with three OAS Secretaries General and was able to attain Belize's membership in the Grupo Centro Americano (GRUCA) caucus of ambassadors, thereby gaining for her country the singular honor of being the only country at the OAS to belong to two regional groups, CARICOM and GRUCA. Shoman has served twice as regional coordinator and chair of both groups for the customary six month term.

Shoman was given Mexico's highest honor to a foreign Diplomat, in the highest grade—the Order of the Aztec Eagle. Lisa Shoman also earned the Order of Jose De Marcoleta in the Grade of Grand Cross later that same year from the Republic of Nicaragua. At the OAS, Ambassador Shoman served two 18 month terms as Chair of the Management Board of the Inter-American Agency for Cooperation and Development, and also Vice Chair of the Permanent Council and has chaired several key meetings of the Permanent Council.

Ambassador Shoman has been a powerful and effective advocate for the interest of the people of Belize.

TRIBUTE TO COMMAND CHIEF
MASTER SERGEANT VICKIE
ORCUTT

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it has been brought to my attention that Command CMSgt Vicki Orcutt of Whiteman Air Force Base in Knob Noster, MO, has retired after 29 years of service.

Command Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt joined the Air Force in the mid-1970s. In her current role, she advises the Wing Commander on matters related to the health, morale, and welfare of the enlisted force and on matters related to the proper training, equipment, and utilization of enlisted personnel. Throughout the entire Air Force there are 138 Command Chief Master Sergeant positions. Only nine are women.

In her early years, Command Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt obtained a degree in Human Resources. She is now considering a teaching

job and hopes to stay in Lafayette County, MO, her current home.

Madam Speaker, Command Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt has been a valuable asset to Whiteman Air Force Base and the entire Nation. She has helped to shape the future of the Air Force through her dedicated service of 29 years. I know that the Members of the House will join me in paying tribute to Chief Master Sergeant Orcutt.

BROKEN PROMISES

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, last night, Republicans offered a motion to recommit the Agriculture Appropriations bill that would have sent the bill back to the Appropriations Committee "promptly" for them to amend. But that didn't happen.

Instead, Democrats shut down the vote when it looked like the outcome wasn't going to come out in their favor.

Last night's Democratic tactics amount to the disenfranchisement of American voters.

Four Republicans were not able to cast their vote for their constituents—representing over 2.4 million Americans who were not allowed to have their voice heard.

This is the biggest broken promise to the American people—tax increases, hidden earmarks, budget deficits—none of these broken promises match up to the unfair acts of the Democrat majority last night.

This is not what the American people expect of their elected representatives.

They deserve better and the Republicans in Congress will stand united to ensure they get what they paid for.

In conclusion God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

STAY THE COURSE

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, many of my colleagues here today would have you believe that the war in Iraq, our foremost front in the fight against radical Islam, is lost. They will tell you, Madam Speaker, that the causes for which we fight, causes upon which our own Nation was founded, like the freedom, the worth of the individual and human rights, are not worth fighting for in Iraq. They will tell you that game is over and that the best that the American people can do is turn around and walk away in defeat.

This defeat by retreat lacks wisdom of what war is about. America does not fight wars, so we can lose them by quitting.

This is the time for the United States to stand firm in its commitment to freedom abroad. Now is the time for the United States to build up this sprouting democracy, rather than let it be torn down by those who would seek to destroy all of us who believe in liberty.

Surrender has never been the American way, Madam Speaker. Since our Nation's in-

ception, we have stood for what is right, even when all odds were against us. Let us follow in the footsteps of those who came before us, those who risked everything in order to preserve freedom for all.

And that's just the way it is.

TRIBUTE TO CITY OF SCHERTZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Schertz for being named one of the Top 100 Best Places to Live by Money Magazine.

The City of Schertz was founded in 1843, and is the largest city in Guadalupe County, which encompasses a part of the 28th Congressional District. Schertz is located between the large metropolitan areas of San Antonio and Austin, but has retained its small-town, community feel which was noted by Money Magazine. Schertz is home to over 34,000 Texans that enjoy all the city has to offer such as its Fourth of July Jubilee which draws visitors from all over Texas.

Schertz has witnessed unprecedented growth since the late 1980s. From 2000–2005, the city's population went from 18,694 to 26,463. In the past year, that population rose by over 7,000 to 34,000. The growth is attributed to the city's vibrant economy, its schools, and the quality of life enjoyed by its residents. It is clear why Schertz is No. 40 on the Top 100 Best Places To Live by Money Magazine. In the State of Texas alone, it is ranked as the No. 1 place to live.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize the City of Schertz for their being named one of the Top 100 Best Places To Live by Money Magazine.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO COMBAT HUMAN SEX TRAFFICKING

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representatives DEBORAH PRYCE and LYNN WOOLSEY, I am reintroducing legislation that would combat human sex trafficking by using the Tax Code to put traffickers in prison. Approximately 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year. Instead of dreams of better jobs and better lives, they are trapped into a nightmare of coercion, violence, and disease. However, trafficking is not just a problem in other countries. In addition to the men, women, and children from around the world who are brought into the United States for the sole purpose of being bought and sold by American citizens for commercial sex, in many communities, the victims themselves are Americans.

The legislation would authorize \$4 million toward the establishment of an office within the IRS Criminal Investigation Division to prosecute sex traffickers for violations of tax laws.

This office would coordinate closely with the existing task forces in the Department of Justice that are focused on sex trafficking offenders. The IRS would be directed to focus on the willful failure of traffickers to file returns, supply information, or pay taxes where the taxpayer is an "aggravated" non-filer. Additionally, the provision establishes a new felony offense for an aggravated failure to file, to include failure to file with respect to income or payments derived from activity which is criminal under Federal or State law. The aggravated failure shall carry a maximum sentence of 10 years per failure and shall increase the penalty from \$25,000 under current law to \$50,000. The legislation also increases other penalties for underpayment or overpayment of tax due to fraud.

The bill works to the benefit of the women and girls that are victimized by the traffickers not only by removing the traffickers from the streets but also by revising the IRS Whistleblower provisions that are currently in place so that the women and girls who choose to participate in the investigation of the trafficker will be eligible to participate in the whistleblower program and may ultimately receive some payment for their participation.

This bill will provide the IRS with the necessary resources to prosecute traffickers, pimps, and sex tour operators and recover their illicit profits. It is important that we protect the victims of the sex trade industry and punish the predators who exploit them.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO VIDA LIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Vida Chan Lin for her tireless efforts on behalf of the Las Vegas community.

Vida Chan Lin has been an outstanding member of the Asian Community in Nevada for more than ten years. She currently serves as the vice-president for both the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce and the Las Vegas Organization of Chinese Americans. In addition to these prestigious roles Vida also has the honor of being a founding member of the Nevada Asian American/Pacific Islander Leadership Council, and in 2002 she worked on the fundraising committee of the Japanese American Citizens League national convention. She has also served on the Clark County Business Development Advisory Council, and was a member of the Clark County Library District Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Advisory Committee.

Vida's positive attitude and passion for service in the Asian community has made her a well respected leader and role model for younger generations. Members of her chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans have characterized her as the "Queen Bee" of their growing family and state that without her, they would not be where they are today. Vida's efforts and accomplishments provide an atmosphere for others to learn and benefit from her exceptional leadership.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Vida Chan Lin. I would like to personally thank her for her dedicated service to our community, as well as for her support of the Asian Pacific Islander community in Las Vegas.

TRIBUTE TO MR. LEON WEST

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor and gratitude that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of Mr. Leon West. I can truly say that Leon is one of northwest Indiana's most dedicated, distinguished, and honorable citizens. I have known Leon for many years, and he is one of the most passionate and involved citizens that I have ever known, especially when it comes to his service to the Democratic Party and the people of the First Congressional District. For the past 14 years, Leon has been a constant fixture in Porter County, serving as chairman for the Porter County Democratic Party, and more recently, as First District chairman. At the age of 72, Leon has decided to retire from these posts to spend more time with his family, but his efforts over the course of his tenure and the impact he has had on transforming the government in Porter County will forever be remembered. To honor Leon, a farewell reception will be held at the Woodland Park Community Center in Portage, Indiana, on Monday, August 6, 2007.

Leon West was born in Osceola, Arkansas, on September 17, 1934. He was one of six children. Known for his passion and unwavering devotion to the betterment of his community, it is no surprise to learn that Leon, as a young man, served in the U.S. Army from 1957 to 1959 and again from 1961 to 1962. While serving his community in various capacities throughout his lifetime, Leon came to be known for his strong work ethic, a trait he undoubtedly developed during his 42 year career at United States Steel.

Early on, Leon knew that the best way to improve his community and to help the people of Porter County was to get involved in public service. In each of his roles, Leon focused on the same goal, to make a difference in society, starting with his own community. Some highlights of Leon's career include his service on the Portage Board of Zoning Appeals, his 18 years on the Portage City Council, and his service on the Porter County Council. In addition, Leon further demonstrated his commitment to the people of northwest Indiana through his membership with the Portage Jaycees, the Exchange Club, Dunes Lodge #741, and the Shriners, to name a few. It was through his work with the Jaycees that Portage, Indiana, received its status as a city in 1968. He has also served on various councils and boards. From issues ranging from taxes and transportation to caring for the elderly, Leon West has always been an active participant in seeking to improve his community in every way possible. For his efforts, he was awarded the prestigious Sagamore of the Wabash in 1997 by the late Governor Frank O'Bannon.

While his everyday presence will be missed in northwest Indiana, Leon will now have a chance to fully commit his time to those closest to him, his family. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, Leon's commitment to his community is surpassed only by his love for his family. Leon and his loving wife, Beverly, will soon be moving to Texas, and they plan to spend as much time as possible with

their three children: Kathy, Kerri, and Ken, and their adoring grandchildren: Blake, Paige, Andrew, Claire, Duncan, and Lou.

Madam Speaker, Leon West has selflessly given his time and efforts to the people of the First Congressional District and to the Democratic Party in northwest Indiana throughout his years of service. At this time, I ask that you and all of my distinguished colleagues join me in commending him for his lifetime of service and dedication, and I ask that you join me in wishing him the best of health and happiness in the years to come.

IN HONOR OF THE 2007 SUSSEX
COUNTY SENIOR OF THE YEAR,
MARIA RATH

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend Maria Rath of Hainesville for her kind and generous service to her community. In her retirement, Maria has turned her tremendous energy and heart into a true blessing for all of Sussex County. Next week, her good deeds will be recognized at the State Fair when she is named the 2007 Sussex County Senior of the Year. I join my Sussex neighbors in honoring her for her work.

Maria has established the Bread of Life's Ministry, a one-woman show distributing donated baked goods to area food pantries and families in need. She has partnered with places like Panera Bread, Manna House, and Sussex County Technical School to take their donations of leftover bread, repackaging it, and distribute it to institutions like Liberty Towers and Nutrition Center, Brookside Apartments, the Newton Adult Day Care Center, First Presbyterian Church of Sparta, and, my own church, Lafayette Federated Church. In addition to her regular rounds, Maria will take whatever extra time or effort is necessary to help a family she hears may need her loving touch.

In addition to this important project, Maria and her husband, Wilbur, started a furniture ministry six years ago. Through that endeavor, they bring household furniture to families in need. Maria also cooks at the Manna House once a month and volunteers at the Newton Hospital labs. Her labors are truly labors of love, bringing joy and hope to people as well as the material goods they need so badly.

Maria notes, "I'm 77, but I feel like 49." Age is no match for a young and vibrant spirit and heart. Maria is an extraordinary example for men and women of all ages, demonstrating the power of a single life to influence so many lives in a very positive way.

CARIBBEAN STATES MAKE AS-
SESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF
POVERTY ON DEVELOPMENT

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the RECORD an opinion editorial

published in the CaribNews newspaper the week ending July 31, 2007 titled "St. Vincent & the Grenadines: Launches Poverty Assessment Survey" and an article entitled "Poverty Picture in the Caribbean: Barbados to Undertake Assessment." Both examine the initiatives these countries have taken to address poverty.

As CARICOM nations look to move to a single market economy, they should be encouraged to take a proactive approach to assess poverty in their individual nations. Poverty assessments serve as the key instrument of poverty reduction strategy. They are designed to assess the extent and causes of poverty in a given country and to propose a strategy to ameliorate its effects. Understanding the causes and characteristics of poverty in the Caribbean is particularly important at this time as there are indications that living conditions in some countries have declined in recent years.

The data gathered from these assessments will be used to evaluate the quality of life and living conditions being experienced at the community, family and individual levels, with particular interest and emphasis placed on vulnerable groups like women, and children.

The increases in competition stemming from global economic changes in trade and capital markets, the erosion of preferential market access, the vulnerability of the tourist industry and competition from other destinations, and decline in official capital flows from bilateral sources all present a particularly difficult challenge for the Caribbean. Given this environment, there is an urgent need for countries to pursue policies that will stimulate and sustain economic growth and prioritize investments aimed at reducing poverty and developing human resources. So I commend the leadership of the governments of Barbados and St. Vincent & the Grenadines for the steps they are taking to assess poverty in their countries.

[From CaribNews, July 17, 2007]

ST. VINCENT LAUNCHES POVERTY ASSESSMENT
SURVEY

KINGSTOWN, ST. VINCENT, CMC—St. Vincent and the Grenadines has launched an EC\$2 million-dollar (US \$749,000) poverty assessment programme that Prime Minister Dr. Ralph Gonsalves said would be welcomed regardless of the outcome.

"Only on the foundation of truth we can build efficacious policies," Gonsalves said as he addressed the launching of the project on Tuesday. The poverty assessment project will seek to create a profile of poverty on the island and is being funded by the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme.

The last poverty assessment survey was undertaken in 1996 and it found that 37.5 per cent of the population was poor, while 20.4 per cent of the households and 25.7 per cent of the population was indigent, or living below the poverty line.

Gonsalves, who said that poverty reduction is one of the central pillars of his government's programme, said he was prepared to accept the results of the new survey.

He noted that in the event that the assessment showed there had not been a significant enough reduction in poverty, more would have to be done in addition to what is already in place.

"History is replete with failed leaders who want to hear what they want to, they don't last long," he said, blaming the then New Democratic Party (NDP) government of not properly preparing the nation for the quickly changing economy.

He said they were too concerned with keeping spending down, maintaining a surplus on the current account and other things that amounted to simply keeping their heads above water.

The Prime Minister suggested that more concrete policies needed to be enacted to deal with the crippling challenges that globalisation and trade liberalisation was going present to the region.

"There was no preparation on the most critical resource before us, people, to address the changing nature of the colonial political economy," Gonsalves said.

The poverty assessment will be conducted by the Trinidad and Tobago based firm KAIRI Consultants Limited, the same group that did the 1996 assessment.

[From *CaribNews*, July 23, 2007]

POVERTY PICTURE IN THE CARIBBEAN, BARBADOS TO UNDERTAKE ASSESSMENT SOON TO FIND OUT HOW MANY LIVING BELOW POVERTY LINE, ASSESSMENT TO BEGIN IN AUGUST

(By Tony Best)

With poverty levels running the gamut from about nine per cent in the Bahamas and 18 per cent in Jamaica to 21 per cent in Trinidad and Tobago and almost 60 per cent in Haiti, according to the United Nations, Caribbean governments are extremely sensitive to figures which indicate that poverty was either on the rise or was far too high. That explains why the Arthur Administration in Barbados is gearing up to undertake a comprehensive national poverty assessment, beginning possibly in about a month's time and using a broadened definition of poverty.

Trevor Prescod, Minister of Social Transformation, told the *CaribNews* that it was important for the government to have a firm idea about the full extent of poverty so that it could target more of its programmes, projects and resources to the task of meeting the needs of people living in dire circumstances.

"We haven't had any recent scientific analysis of it (poverty) and we are now into, probably within a month or so, we are going to have a wide assessment of poverty," the Minister said in New York after he signed the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Disabled, the first human rights treaty of the 21st century.

"We are now putting together the kinds of operational management structures to ensure that that assessment is carried out in a very scientific manner," he explained. "We have just established a planning unit within the Ministry of Social Transformation. We are working with the Statistical Department, the Caribbean Development Bank and we are going to have other agencies coming in as well." For instance, the University of the West Indies may be invited to carry out the actual research for the country's human development report, according to Prescod.

"When we get that report we would be in a better position to tell you if there has been any fundamental changes, if we have been able to reduce the numbers" of people living in poverty," he said. The Inter-American Development Bank carried out the last assessment of poverty in Barbados a decade ago and it showed that about 35,000 persons or an estimated 13-14 per cent of the population lived below the poverty line. "Enough time has elapsed that we need to have a new report to see if we have made any dent into that 35,000 that we talk about," Prescod added. "But it all depends on what you use as a measurement for poverty. The IDB dealt with an income consumption analysis and what the Ministry is doing, we now have a broader definition of poverty."

Specifically, it would focus on "social deprivation," taking into account access to

health care, education and other essential services rather than simply zeroing on income and consumption, he pointed out.

However, the approach the government plans to adopt would make it difficult to compare the IDB's rate with any new findings, because the latter would touch on the lives of a broader cross-section of the Barbadian population. That raises the distinct possibility that the actual number of poor people could be higher than in the late 1990s.

"It is going to be very difficult if we now have the new definition to compare it with what occurred with the IDB's assessment," the Minister said.

While he acknowledged that any assessment which showed a rise in poverty could become a political controversy, with the Opposition Democratic Labor Party leading the charge against his Ministry, Prescod said that it was clear that the Arthur Administration had attacked the problem of poverty by eliminating many of the debilitating conditions under which some Bajans had to live. "If we do an assessment we would discover there has been a change, especially in the provision of housing, many of the persons identified the last time around have since been empowered, were retooled by giving skills to those persons who previously had no skills," he argued.

"You would discover that both the Urban Development Corporation and the Rural Development Corporation have replaced the dilapidated houses. On the basis of observation alone, without having the kind of empirical figure to show, there is obvious evidence of an improvement. I think that is what worries the opposition more than anything else.

"We have done a lot of work, especially in the urban and rural communities across Barbados," he said. "We had lots of people living in horrible conditions and we have been able to make substantial changes in the lives of those persons. No one can realistically question the quality of life and the way it has improved in Barbados over the last 10 years or so. We have done exceedingly well."

WANDA A. BROWN: MISSOURI PRESS HALL OF FAME

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, on September 7th, the Missouri Press Association's Missouri Press Hall of Fame will have as its newest member a person who has devoted her life to community journalism, community philanthropy and community service, all while raising a family of public servants and serving as a business and civic partner with her late husband.

Wanda Brown was born June 16, 1918, in Franklin County, AR. She attended Draughon's Business College in Ft. Smith, AR, from 1936-1938. After graduation, she was business manager for Robbins Buick Motor Company in Ft. Smith. She met her husband, J.W. Brown, Jr., when he came into the dealership to buy tires. They were married June 14, 1946. From 1946 until 1955, they made their home in Willow Springs, MO, where J.W. owned the newspaper and also served as Postmaster. In 1955, they purchased the Harrisonville Democrat-Missourian and formed the Cass County Publishing Company. Under the ownership of J.W. and Wanda Brown, Cass County Publishing Company operated

the Cass County Democrat-Missourian, the Lee's Summit Journal, the Belton Star Herald, the Bates County Democrat and the Lawrence County Record.

Two generations of Cass County residents have known Wanda Brown as the author of a column in the Democrat-Missourian, "Wanda's Favorite Recipes," and have prepared many of them for their families. Few probably are aware that the proceeds from two of her recipe books were given to support The Way Off Broadway Players and the Cass Medical Center Foundation.

With her retirement in 1985, after 30 years as Business Manager of the Cass County Publishing Company, she accelerated her contributions to her community and to the State of Missouri. Wanda Brown has been a generous supporter of the Missouri Press Foundation, the Harrisonville Memorial Hospital, and the Harrisonville Public School Foundation. In her hometown of Harrisonville, she has contributed to the construction of the Harrisonville Baseball Fields, to the Harrisonville High School Bleacher Project, the Children's Library at the Cass County Information Center, and to the creation of a nursing scholarship at the Cass Medical Center. She was a leader in the campaigns to fund the Thermal Imaging Camera for the Harrisonville Fire Department, the construction of the Harrisonville Parks Amphitheater, and the creation of the Harrisonville Public School Foundation Endowment. She also helped to fund the Community Journalism Chair at the University of Missouri School of Journalism.

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Wanda and her family—Larry and Jean Snider, Bill and Mary James, Alex, Doug, Kate, Anne, and Molly. I am certain that my colleagues will join me in commending Wanda for her decades of community service.

PROMOTING TALK RADIO

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, this Sunday will mark the 20th anniversary of the day the Federal Communications Commission voted unanimously to abolish the "Fairness Doctrine."

Under President Ronald Reagan's leadership, the "Fairness Doctrine" was removed from our airwaves because it undermined freedom of speech. Reagan was a man who realized that Washington should not tell the press what to write and say. His vision led to the development of the people's forum of talk radio.

In the wake of this decision, talk radio has grown from fewer than a hundred shows to several thousand. Today, radio commentators like Keven Cohen in Columbia, South Carolina, and Bill Edwards in Savannah, Georgia, play a vital role in bringing intelligent and thoughtful perspective to the many issues facing America.

The "Fairness Doctrine" is a relic of a bygone era. Let's keep it a part of our past and not of our future.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11th.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. AMANDA G.
RASH

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Amanda G. Rash on her reaching the milestone of her 95th birthday. She is one of the most inspiring members of the community in the City of Laredo and in the State of Texas.

Mrs. Amanda G. Rash was born on July 26, 1912, to her parents Carlos and Ana Chapa de Gutierrez in Old Guerrero in the State of Tamaulipas in Mexico. She grew up in the town of Zapata, Texas, where her father was a rancher. Amanda became a certified beautician after high school and opened her own beauty salon in Zapata. In 1937, she met Roy Clifford Rash from Granbury, Texas, and together they raised 3 daughters, Eva Linda, Rose Lee, an Arlene Myra.

As a mother, Mrs. Rash is wholly devoted to her children. She also helped her husband to succeed with his highway construction business, Border Road Construction and Border Materials, in the late 1950s. After her husband's death in 1970, the business continued to thrive under Mrs. Rash's leadership and was sold to their employees in 1973. Her Christian faith has sustained her, and that strength is felt through the kindness and caring she has given to others. Her remarkable mind and wit have served her well in her 95 years. She has been an inspiration to all who know her.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to have had the opportunity to recognize the dedication of Mrs. Amanda G. Rash to her community, and ask you to join me in honoring her on her birthday.

HONORING THE TRUMBULL HIGH SCHOOL GOLDEN EAGLE MARCHING BAND

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band on hosting their 25th Annual Fall Classic Bank Competition.

On this silver anniversary, we commemorate the legacy of the band promoting music education through competition. For almost 40 years now, the Golden Eagle Marching Band has been known as one of the premiere marching bands in the country.

The band has represented the State of Connecticut at the 2004 Hollywood Christmas Parade in California and the 54th Presidential Inauguration Parade in 2001. It has also been at the top of the Musical Arts Conference since its inception in 2001 and has won countless awards along the way. In 2006, the band was champion of its division for the third year.

These young musicians benefited from hundreds of hours of practice, competitions, and most importantly memories that last a lifetime. Even after the fall sports season ends, come

December, the music does not stop. Band members continue to bring credit to Trumbull High School by competing in Winter Guard International competitions. In 2007, both groups were finalists in the scholastic world class and in 2005, the winter guard placed third in the country in the scholastic open class.

None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of staff members and band parents over many years. These unsung heroes keep this organization on the field day in and day out. Without their tremendous support, the Eagles could not have soared to the heights we see today.

The Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band has raised the bar for future generations to proudly represent Trumbull High School and the State of Connecticut. These individuals on the field have embodied hard work, a positive attitude, and concentration. The State of Connecticut is proud of their hard work.

CONGRATULATING THE 2007 WEST VIRGINIA LITTLE LEAGUE STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2007 West Virginia Little League State Champions, the South Berkeley Little League team, who hail from West Virginia's Second Congressional District.

The 2007 Little League State Tournament took place in Hedgesville, July 21 through July 26. Fifteen teams from around the State participated in the tournament. The Little Leaguers played in a series of games the first 4 days of the tournament and the finalist advanced to the single elimination series. The championship came down to Berkeley County's own, Martinsburg and South Berkeley Little League teams.

After Martinsburg put up a good fight, South Berkeley finally came out on top in an 8-2 victory, winning their first Little League State Championship in 27 years. The South Berkeley Little League team is managed by Larry Custer and Coaches Chris Cochran and Jess Dusing. The South Berkeley Little League team is made up of thirteen players ages, 11-12, from Bunker Hill and Inwood who all attend Musselman Middle School. The players include: Chance Allen, Tyler Baker, Markie Custer, Caleb Dembeck, Nikki Dusing, Maverick Keller, Denver Luttrell, Alan Mocahbee, Andy Mocahbee, Austin Owens, Jacob Whitmore, Evan Woolum, and Darrin Zombro.

The South Berkeley team will progress to the Southeast Regional Playoffs this month in St. Petersburg, FL. I wish them the best of luck as they will represent West Virginia very well. I hope to see them advance to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to acknowledge these young men who participate in America's greatest pastime, the game of baseball. Again, congratulations South Berkeley Little League team.

TRIBUTE TO PORTABLE PRACTICAL EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION INC.

HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. GRIJALVA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Portable Practical Educational Preparation Inc., PPEP.

For the past 40 years, PPEP has been working diligently for rural communities, improving the lives and futures of the people it serves. PPEP has been steadfast in its service to the rural poor, the disenfranchised, the developmentally disabled, at-risk youth, and the migrant and seasonal farm workers and their families.

The founding philosophy of Project PPEP is to involve those who are less fortunate in carrying out meaningful programs to eliminate rural poverty—to help overcome the problems faced by rural people by mobilizing public and private resources in support of these programs. Armed with their first grant of \$19,000 from the Office of Economic Opportunity, Project PPEP and La Tortuga became a reality.

On August 24, 1967 John David Arnold, founder and current chief administrative officer, embarked on PPEP's first outreach trip to provide training by touring in a converted 1957 Chevrolet school bus named "La Tortuga"—the Tortoise. This portable classroom allowed PPEP to teach English to migrant workers and taught many people the value of learning vocational and technical skills like driving a car, and improving sanitation and nutrition. La Tortuga was driven all over southern Arizona, taking PPEP's resources to the cotton and vegetable fields and providing educational preparation to African Americans and "Braceros" and their families.

In November 1967, the Arizona Daily Star summarized PPEP as, "a practical education which is brought almost to the doorstep of unskilled and poverty-stricken people in Southern Arizona." As Project PPEP celebrates 40 years of success, these words still ring true.

In the past 40 years, PPEP has touched over 4 million people, developed numerous programs that have become national self-help models, has established 42 field offices operating with 17 group homes servicing over 167 developmentally disabled adults, and has created 13 charter high school campuses throughout Arizona, having graduated over 2,400 students in the past 11 years.

The staff of PPEP has encouraged and enabled many disadvantaged citizens to develop technical skills and computer literacy which has allowed many of them to move from welfare to more productive lives in the job market. PPEP provides a bridge for farm workers, the rural poor and many other disadvantaged individuals.

Due to the support of PPEP, many migrant workers, low income families and the rural poor are building homes, building businesses and building communities of opportunity.

I offer my thanks to the dedicated and committed staff of Project PPEP.

AMERICAN TROOPS AND THE WAR
IN IRAQ

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, in a little over a month, this body will receive an official status report from General David Petraeus, the commander of American forces in Iraq, on whether benchmarks of progress set by Congress have been met. A preliminary report issued in July indicated that there has been a failure to meet more than half of those benchmarks, a woeful assessment that has been only further hampered by increased political fracturing in Baghdad. Earlier this week, the largest Sunni political bloc resigned from the Prime Minister's cabinet. Any hope that the political cohesion so desperately needed for real, permanent success in Iraq seems to be lost amid the destruction and divisiveness that continues to impede our efforts.

When we return in September, we will consider whether to continue granting unchecked and unqualified funding for this war—a war that has raged on for 4 long years, a war that has claimed thousands of American and Iraqi lives, a war that has cost nearly half a trillion dollars. And while we debate funding for Iraq, the day-to-day lives of the men and women in uniform deployed are consumed by more violence and uncertainty. Recently, we received news in New Mexico that the life of another of our soldiers has been lost to combat. Like my colleagues, the calls back home to console parents, spouses and children for their loss and the occurrence of somber funerals is more familiar than we ever thought it would be, and for all of us the end to this war cannot come soon enough.

When I return to New Mexico this month, I have no doubt that the war will continue to be the top issue on the minds of my constituents. We all hear the same question: What is Congress doing? I will tell them that we voted to redeploy our troops. That we voted to bring our soldiers home for longer periods of rest. And that we vote to enact key provisions and provide critical funding for the soldiers. However, in the end, the families in my district will want to know when the end will come, when their sons and daughters will be home.

We must bring our troops home, we must end this misguided and mismanaged war, and we must—we must—repair our foreign policy. For if we don't, in the decades to come the reverberations of our mistakes in Iraq will continue to affect our image and our position in the world. Change is needed, and it is needed now.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 791, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 792, I would have voted "yea."

On rollcall No. 793, I would have voted "yea."
On rollcall No. 794, I would have voted "yea."
On rollcall No. 795, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 796, I would have voted "yea."
On rollcall No. 797, I would have voted "yea."
On rollcall No. 798, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 799, I would have voted "yea."
On rollcall No. 800, I would have voted "yea."
On rollcall No. 801, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 802, I would have voted "yea."
On rollcall No. 803, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 804, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 805, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 806, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 807, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 808, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 809, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 810, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 811, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 812, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 813, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 814, I would have voted "nay."
On rollcall No. 815, I would have voted "yea."
On rollcall No. 816, I would have voted "yea."

TRIBUTE TO CORNELL LEVERETT
MOORE

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, it is with great joy that I rise today to honor and congratulate Mr. Cornell Leverett Moore, the esteemed lawyer and activist from Minneapolis. Cornell recently received the Distinguished Citizen Award from the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity in recognition of his exemplary ongoing service to the citizens of Minnesota and the United States. This great honor has doubtlessly found a worthy recipient in Cornell.

I first had the pleasure of meeting Cornell nearly 20 years ago, and he has then become a personal hero to me. I am to this day taken aback by his openness and his willingness to help. Cornell is admired by all of his colleagues, and I am personally blessed to have had such an outstanding teacher, such an involved mentor, and such a good friend for all of these years. In addition to being an outstanding member of the professional commu-

nity, Cornell has set an amazing example through his remarkable ability to make time for everybody in need of his help.

Cornell has nobly lent his efforts to countless civic organizations. He has served as the chairman of the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority—in addition to numerous other housing advocacy groups—fighting to ensure that low-income families have a place to call home. He sits on the board of trustees of many institutions of higher learning, including Howard University, where Cornell studied law. With a history of fighting for civil rights in Minnesota, Cornell is now working on increasing diversity within the ranks of Twin Cities-area law firms. He was also elected president of Sigma Pi Phi, the nation's oldest African-American fraternal organization, in its 100th year of existence.

Madam Speaker, a list of the ways in which Cornell has served his community, of his honors and awards, is far too long to detail in one attempt. I am happy to report that Cornell has shown no signs of slowing down his outstanding work. His receiving Kappa Alpha Psi's Distinguished Citizen Award should not be viewed simply in honor of the great things Cornell has already accomplished, but as a milestone. Madam Speaker, you can expect many more great things to come from my friend Cornell.

HONORING THE DEDICATED
SERVICE OF DAVID PLUNKETT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. GORDON of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize David Plunkett for his outstanding service while working in my Washington, D.C., office. After 9 years of assisting me in serving the residents of Middle Tennessee, David is retiring from the Hill and moving on to other endeavors.

David's hard work, insight and meticulous work ethic while serving as my legislative director have helped me do my job better. His advice has been immensely helpful to me, and he has been an invaluable source of institutional knowledge for newer members of my staff.

While David's responsibilities have grown over the years, he has maintained his down-to-earth demeanor. He has always been willing to mentor new staff members and take a moment to give a thorough explanation to someone looking for greater understanding of a legislative concept.

The void David will leave is not only measured by his experience and knowledge, but also by his personality. His dry sense of humor and skill at playing the devil's advocate will be missed, and my staff and I know we will also miss the stories of his summer travel adventures with his wife, Vickie.

David, thank you for your hard work over the past 9 years. I wish you all the best in the future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL AMERICA DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY ACT

HON. JOHN M. McHUGH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, I rise to introduce the Rural America Digital Accessibility Act, which is designed to enhance access to high speed internet connections in rural areas like Central and Northern New York, which I represent. Specifically, this legislation, which I have offered in each of the past three Congresses, would provide four incentives to encourage broadband development, thereby reducing the digital divide, creating jobs, and helping to stem migration from rural areas.

First, the Rural America Digital Accessibility Act would authorize technology bonds to provide a new type of tax incentive to help, and even encourage, state and local governments to invest in the necessary telecommunications infrastructure. The technology bonds would further aid these communities' efforts to partner with the private sector to expand broadband deployment in their regions. In addition, the bill's Broadband Expansion Grant Initiative would complement the technology bonds by utilizing grants and loan guarantees to accelerate private-sector deployment of high-speed connections.

Many rural regions, such as Central and Northern New York, have an abundance of excellent institutions of higher education. However, to fully develop the potential of these centers, communities must be able to utilize the resources and expertise offered through these universities and colleges. Thus, the third incentive contained in the legislation would help small- and medium-sized businesses connect with educational institutions to receive the technological assistance needed to enhance their competitiveness and promote economic growth. The final provision of the bill would authorize research funding to increase rural America's broadband accessibility and make it more cost-effective.

Enhanced internet access is necessary to further much-needed economic development in rural areas of our Nation; it is particularly important to my constituents. Seven of the 11 counties I represent have poverty rates greater than the national rate of 12.7 percent and five of my constituent counties have experienced a decrease in their populations since 2000. Accordingly, I ask my colleagues to join with me as I work to enact the Rural America Digital Accessibility Act.

A TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF
MELVIN B. LANE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor a distinguished American, a trusted friend and constituent, Melvin B. Lane, who passed away on July 28, 2007 at the age of 85.

Mel Lane was born in 1922 in Des Moines, Iowa, and moved to San Francisco in 1928

with his family when his father purchased Sunset Magazine, a travel magazine. He graduated from Palo Alto High School and Pomona College and earned his Bachelor's Degree from Stanford University. He married the love of his life, Joan Fletcher Lane, and they had two beautiful daughters, Whitney and Julie.

Mel returned home after serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II and began working for Lane Publishing Co. and Sunset Magazine and Books. He and his brother, Ambassador L.W. "Bill" Lane, ran Lane Publishing for nearly 40 years, during which they helped make Sunset a national leader in advertising and transformed the book division into a major enterprise with hundreds of successful titles.

In 1965, Mel was drawn into environmental politics when then-Governor Pat Brown appointed him to the post of Chairman of the newly-established San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission, a partnership of industry, government and the environmental community. Under Mel's strong leadership, the Commission established and implemented a plan to govern use of San Francisco Bay, which supports one of the Nation's busiest ports as well as a wide variety of fish and wildlife. His success on the Commission led to his appointment by Governor Ronald Reagan in 1972 as the first Chairman of the California Coastal Commission. The San Francisco Bay Plan and the California Coastal Plan, both of which were developed under Mel's leadership, still serve to this day as the blueprint for coastal protection around the world. Throughout his tenure on the Commission, Mel was an extraordinary advocate for environmental protection, always arguing that it was crucial to a healthy economy.

After retiring from the Commission in 1977, Mel continued his conservation work with the Peninsula Open Space Trust, the World Wildlife Fund, and he helped to establish the California Environmental Trust. He also served as a Trustee at Stanford University from 1981 to 1991, where he created an environmental institute and led efforts to establish a long-range land-use plan on campus in addition to rebuilding Stanford Memorial Church after the Loma Prieta earthquake. He also chaired the Sierra Club's National Advisory Committee, the California Fund for the Environment and the Conservation Foundation. In 1998, he was named Conservationist of the Year by the California League of Conservation Voters.

Mel was well-known amongst his friends and colleagues for his loyalty, his reliability and his quiet strength which he brought to everything he did. He was a man of great integrity and everyone who knew him came away a better person.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring a national treasure and an exemplary American who changed the way we think about conservation. Mel Lane was a beloved husband, devoted father and trusted friend. He loved his community and his country, served both with distinction, making our Nation a better place for generations to come.

CELEBRATING BELLA ZELDA "JEANETTE" KOLBER ON THE OCCASION OF HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great milestone for one of my constituents, Bella Zelda "Jeanette" Kolber. On Sunday, August 5, Mrs. Kolber will mark her 100th birthday, an event that her entire family and many friends are looking forward to celebrating with her.

Born at home on August 5, 1907 to Pearl and Louis Cohn, the first of their six children, Mrs. Kolber has lived in the Ninth Congressional District for decades and the city of Chicago her entire life.

As a child, Mrs. Kolber attended Von Humboldt Elementary School and Wells High School in Chicago. In 1934, Mrs. Kolber married her beloved Leo "Lefty" Kolber. After the birth of their two children, Lois and Marshall, she became an active volunteer with the Bernard Moos PTA and was the PTA president in 1951. Mrs. Kolber enjoyed a long working career. She worked for many years at the Heineman's silk company. She also worked at Marshall Field for almost 20 years in the personal shopping department. After being forced to retire from Marshall Field, due to her age, she was hired by Lord & Taylor, where she worked almost 20 more years, and achieved the highest honors—gold and diamond awards for her outstanding work there.

Mrs. Kolber is an avid ballroom dancer. She has danced all over Chicago, winning trophies at numerous contests throughout the years. From Daley Plaza to the Aragon Theater and the Levy Center to outdoor music festivals and family events, she's never resisted a chance to get up and move to the music. And she's still dancing.

On the occasion of her 100th birthday this year Mrs. Kolber has decided she wants to officially correct an error that occurred years ago. She was erroneously given the name "Jeanette" upon entering elementary school, by a teacher who simply did not like her given name. As a result, throughout her life Mrs. Kolber has gone by "Jeanette," but has recently asked to be referred to by her given name, Bella Zelda. And so, I am pleased to stand up before the U.S. House of Representatives to honor and recognize Mrs. Kolber and to officially recognize her given name.

Above all else in her life, Mrs. Kolber is devoted to her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and her dear extended family and friends. She has done more than her share of caring for and giving to them over the years. Mrs. Kolber brings great joy and inspiration to her family and close friends and I am proud to join them in celebrating this remarkable woman on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

Happy 100th birthday and keep dancing, Mrs. Bella Zelda Kolber.

TRIBUTE TO FAYGO BEVERAGES

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, Faygo Beverages is part of our Michigan tradition, and I rise today to recognize their 100 years of operations.

Faygo was founded in Detroit on November 4, 1907 as Feigenson Brothers Bottling Works by Russian immigrants Ben and Perry Feigenson. The original flavors of Faygo, Fruit Punch, Strawberry and Grape, were based on cake frosting recipes used by the Feigensons in Russia. That is why these, and the flavors they developed later, were and still are so unique.

Throughout the 20th century, Faygo steadily increased its production line. They coined the word "pop," because of the sound made when opening the bottle and are credited with the spreading of the word "pop" instead of "soda" to mean "soft drink" in the Midwest.

The brothers bought their first delivery truck, a 1922 Ford. They produced the soda one day, closed the factory the next day, loaded the product on a horse drawn wagon, and sold it for three cents or two for a nickel. The brand name changed to "Faygo" in the 30s, and after that, in 1935, the company moved to the current Detroit location.

To say that we are proud of Faygo is an understatement. For those of us in Michigan, we grew up with it. In the 40s, "The Faygo Kid" appeared on television, with the famous Detroit line, "Which way did he go? Which way did he go? He went for Faaaaaygo!". In the 60s, Strawberry Soda changed to "Redpop." In the 70s, Faygo became pioneers of one way bottles, twist-off caps and warehouse distribution. Then there's the "Faygo Boat Song," a memory for another generation. That 1970s commercial featured everyday people on a Boblo Island boat singing "Remember when you were a kid? Well, part of you still is. And that's why we make Faygo."

Madam Speaker, as one who grew up as a kid with thousands of others on Faygo pop, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering and congratulating this Michigan icon, Faygo Beverages, as it celebrates 100 years with employees and their families at the Detroit Zoo on Sunday, August 5, 2007.

**CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND
MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT**

SPEECH OF

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act. This bill invests \$50 billion in our children and our seniors. The minority has had no objections to spending half a trillion dollars in Iraq but objects to \$50 billion over 5 years for our children and seniors. Where are their priorities?

Passing this bill will mean that 5 million more children who are already eligible for SCHIP will be enrolled. That will bring the total

number of children covered by SCHIP to 11 million. Passing this bill will mean a real investment for our children, our seniors, and, indeed, our Nation.

I urge "yes" vote on the CHAMP Act.

**AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS
ACT, 2008**

SPEECH OF

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, August 2, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3161) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, and for other purposes:

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Kingston amendment.

I understand the arguments in favor of importation, but I don't believe that the remedy to solve these problems is to open up our Nation's pharmaceutical supply and distribution system to potentially counterfeit drugs.

Now is simply not the time to open U.S. borders to counterfeit prescription medicines. A new report by the Center for Medicines in the Public Interest scheduled to be released September 30, 2007, projects counterfeit drug sales to reach \$75 billion in 2010, a shocking 92 percent increase from 2005.

According to Peter Pitts, senior fellow for health care studies at the Pacific Research Institute and Director of the Center for Medicines in the Public Interest, "The business of selling fake prescription drugs to unsuspecting consumers is burgeoning, and is a global industry. This underground industry represents a major public health risk for citizens of the world."

The new report estimates counterfeit drug sales will grow 13 percent annually through 2010, compared to just 7.5 percent estimated annual growth for global pharmaceutical commerce.

This amendment is a first step towards opening wide the doors at our borders to drug imports—and thus to counterfeit and adulterated medicines that will jeopardize Americans' health and safety.

We should not compromise the public's faith in the quality and safety of our Nation's pharmaceuticals by opening our borders, dramatically increasing the availability of counterfeit medicines.

Mr. Chairman, I urge strong support for this motion.

**KARCH KIRALY: THE GREATEST
PLAYER IN THE HISTORY OF
AMERICAN MEN'S VOLLEYBALL****HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, this year, the sport of beach volleyball will say goodbye

to its most celebrated player—Karch Kiraly. It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge his accomplishments and congratulate him on his retirement from professional beach volleyball. He will cap his illustrious career with the Association of Volleyball Professionals later this month, with a final appearance at the AVP Manhattan Beach Open—a tournament he has won an impressive eight times.

With 148 domestic and international victories under his belt, Karch Kiraly is the winningest player in the history of the game. Remarkably, he has not only won more often than anyone else, but he has won tournaments in each of the last four decades—a feat many consider to be unrepeatable. Clearly, this three-time Olympic gold medalist and six-time AVP MVP richly deserved induction to the Volleyball Hall of Fame in 2001, six years before his retirement.

The AVP Manhattan Beach Open is one of the most exciting annual events to occur in the 36th congressional district. Each August, thousands of people flock to the beach, just steps from the Manhattan Beach pier, to see the best players in the world compete. A victory in Manhattan Beach is one of the sport's most prestigious honors, and for the last 29 years Karch Kiraly has been there vying for the championship trophy.

From his days as a UCLA Bruin, where he led his team to three NCAA championships, to his professional career as the symbol of beach volleyball, Karch Kiraly has performed with uncommon graciousness and poise. In addition to the AVP Sportsmanship Awards he received in 1995, 1997, and 1998, Kiraly is regarded by friends and fans alike as focused, personable, and refreshingly humble.

While Karch Kiraly is retiring as an active player, he has no intention of leaving beach volleyball. We will miss his trademark pink hat, but as a professional beach volleyball commentator and founder and director of the Karch Kiraly Academy, he will continue to play an active role in influencing the sport he took to new heights.

I am delighted to commend Karch Kiraly for his successful and inspirational career. Fans everywhere will miss seeing him playing—and winning—down on the sand in Manhattan Beach, CA.

**SUPPORTING TITLE V ABSTINENCE
EDUCATION PROGRAM****HON. ROBIN HAYES**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HAYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Title V Abstinence Education program. This program provides the abstinence message to teens, as directed by State law.

State law requires that North Carolina schools include in their health education program a message aimed toward prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and "abstinence until marriage education." Schools must stress the importance of parental involvement and abstinence from sex until marriage in disease prevention, as well as teach students refusal skills and strategies to handle peer pressure. Curricula must teach that a mutually faithful monogamous heterosexual relationship in the context of marriage

is the best lifelong means of avoiding diseases transmitted by sexual contact.

In fiscal year 2006, North Carolina received \$1,248,963 in Federal title V funding. North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction receives the title V funds and uses teachers' salaries as in-kind contributions to meet the required Federal match. The Department of Public Instruction keeps 10 percent of the funds for administration; the remaining funds are given to 101 school districts and 14 charter schools throughout the State. In order to

be eligible, schools must have at least one class of 7th through 12th graders, and schools must comply with the Federal A–H criteria for abstinence education. Funding is distributed based on the number of grades and students each school has; schools receive \$333 per grade and \$1.31 per student in grades 7 through 12. Schools are free to use the money at their discretion as long as they do not violate the Federal Government's eight-point definition of "abstinence education." Staff at the

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction visit school sites on an as-needed basis for general monitoring.

The people of North Carolina have made the choice to provide an abstinence message to their teens, and title V funds help them achieve this goal. I urge my colleagues to support reauthorization of title V and to oppose any provisions that could undermine the choice made by parents in North Carolina to support abstinence education.